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FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 100 - 354572

See also Nos. _____

File
Conlon 12-5-60

File
Laque 4-19-60

File
Turner 3-29-60

File
Turner 3-27-59

VOLUME I

Volume Number
Serials
100-26113

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **KANSAS CITY**

KC FILE NO. 100-1717

REPORT MADE AT KANSAS CITY	DATE WHEN MADE 3-31-48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 2-19,20;3-9,10,27-48	REPORT MADE BY ROBERT F. FETZNER mf
TITLE *OTIS W. JOHNSON, alias O. W. Johnson <i>OTIS 25 21147-1</i> <i>43-1777</i>			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS: OTIS W. JOHNSON, age 63, operates 160 acre farm at Bucyrus, Kansas. Employed by KC Terminal RR from 8-3-08 until 9-28-20, and records of that railroad reflect he was born 9-23-84 at Holliday, Kans. Residents of Bucyrus and Spring Hill, Kans. state JOHNSON has been an admirer and a fanatic on Russia; has stated U. S. needs a government like Russia, but has not advocated the overthrow of this government by force. Prior to World War II JOHNSON informed a neighbor that he was a member of the Technocrats Organization. It is rumored in the locality of Bucyrus, Kans. that during the war on one July 4th subject flew a red flag at his residence. Subject subscribes to "The Daily Worker" and publication "In Fact". Subject is stated to have written numerous letters to radio commentators and newspapers setting forth his views on various current topics. JOHNSON is not known to be member of Communist Party but reads Communist literature. Subject in Jan. and Feb. 1948 wrote three letters to Congressman ERRETT P. SCRIVNER of Kansas expressing his views on current topics, particularly the German-Soviet non-aggression pact of 8-23-39. JOHNSON stated in these letters that the publication, "The Soviets Expected It" by ANNIE LOUISE STRONG, and the "Great Conspiracy Against Russia" by MICHAEL SAYERS and ALBERT KAHN, shed a great deal of light on that pact. He also mentions in these letters GEORGE SELDERS' publication entitled "In Fact" and "Lords of the Press". Subject states in one letter that a statement as to the Soviet Union being one of the most ruthless potential enemies of the world is nonsense of the lowest order. He also states that the Communists have the same rights as given to other political parties and says the Communists he has known were outstanding for intelligence and culture.			
- P -			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>opened 4-7-48 mln</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau 2 - Los Angeles 3 - Kansas City <i>agen dno</i> <i>3 day</i>		100-26113-1 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE APR 3 1948 LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE <i>P. M. Galt</i> FILE	

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DETAILS: This investigation is based on a letter received from Congressman ERRETT P. SCRIVNER from Washington, D. C., dated 2-14-48, relating that he has been receiving letters from one O. W. JOHNSON, and these letters indicate that JOHNSON is a rabid adherent of Communism.

By letter dated 2-18-48 the Washington Field Office was requested to contact Congressman SCRIVNER at Washington, D. C. and obtain the letters referred to in his letter of 2-14-48. By letter dated 3-1-48 the Washington Field Office forwarded three letters written by subject to Congressman SCRIVNER of the Second Kansas District. These letters were photostated, and the photostatic copies are being retained in the files of this office. The originals are being returned to him as per his request. The following are the three letters received by the Congressman:

"Spring Hill, Kansas
Jan. 22nd, 1948

"Mr. Errett P. Scrivner:

"Dear Congressman:

"I thank you for your 'List of Farmer's Bulletins'. Our family wish you to stand firm against the C.M.T. bill. This so called exposure of secret Nazi files is a hoax of a raw nature - cooked up by a scared administration not afraid of a foreign foe but afraid of the American people. Everything they pretend secret is to the Soviet German non aggression pact Aug. 23rd, 1939 has been known for a long time by anyone who reads the daily press.

"Two books shed much light upon that pact. 'The Soviets Expected It', by Anne Louise Strong of Kansas City who spent many years in Russia. 'The Great Conspiracy Against Russia', Sayers and Kahn - Senator Pepper says of the last 'must reading for all statesmen'.

"You know the story of O. John Rooge, why he was fired by Tom Clark and Truman. He wanted to make all those documents public, which would involve fifty or more very prominent people with shady dealings with Hitler. I suggest if it is possible you visit O. John Rooge or contact Geo. Seldes 'In Fact' N.Y. get the truth first hand then demand that all these documents including the recent 'Weidemier Report on China' be given fully and completely to the American people.

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"It is apparent that financial groups are doing all that is within their power to fan the flames of hate and war.

Yours for peace and security,

/s/ O. W. Johnson, Farmer "

"Spring Hill, Kansas

"Hon. Errett P. Scrivner:

"Dear Sir:

"Thank you for your candid letter of Jan. 26th 1948.

"We here are glad to know where you stand on the peace time conscription plan as proposed by leading groups of war mongers. Your statement as to the Soviet Union being one of the most ruthless potential enemies the world has ever seen is nonsense of the lowest order, rather say the enemies of world peace and disarmament today are in powerful groups that are represented largely within the N.A.M. and working hand in glove with them the professional politicians of both parties many of whom should not be trusted outside of mad houses.

"We people fought, worked and won the late war, taking inspiration in the thought we would achieve peace and disarmament which would mean a fuller and better life for all Americans who toil. We do not intend to have our hopes and aspirations smothered by forces of darkness that are clearly discernable to all who think and see.

"One Sunday a short time ago the anti Saloon League broadcasting from Texas station made the statement that four gallons of booze was consumed within the District of Columbia to one gallon anywhere else within the United States.

"Could it be this Dutch courage is causing many of our law makers to become optimistic and arrogant as to the outcome of the peoples mandate as of Nov., 1948? Your communication of Jan. 26-1948 will be given to the Secretary of the C.I.O. and A.F.L. of Kansas City, Kansas.

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"In my last letter you ignored two important points, namely, the Nazi documents and Report on China, both all or partly suppressed.

"I am mailing you some material which proves our Congress has plenty to do at home, and stop their meddling in affairs of other nations. Such as protecting the financial affairs of the once great John Bull, even to the extent of impoverishing the American people. The people of this district know little about you, they know as reported by the papers you took a trip to the far east at the peoples expense, they would feel better I know if you were in there fighting against the criminal misuse of \$50,000 of public money by Royall, as reported by Drew Pearson.

Yours Respectfully,

/s/ O. W. Johnson

"Spring Hill, Kansas
Feb. 10th

"Hon. Errett Scrivner:

"Dear Sir:

"Your letter of Feb. 4th was a disappointment for several reasons. The most important was you side stepped the chief contention; which was - The so called exposure of the Soviet German non aggression pact of 1939 as taken from captured Nazi records in Berlin coupled with my demand that the State Dept. release all of such captured documents as O. John Rooge insisted, coupled with the demand they also publish in full the Weidemier report on China.

"The authors I cited produce an overwhelming abundance of evidence and reasoning that will do much toward convincing the American people that the real threat to world peace is within the ranks of American and British imperialism and supporting groups that are insane enough to believe that America could ever benefit by such an adventure.

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"The point is the authors I cited speak the truth, then does it at all matter what their political background is as long as their work is outstanding? To illustrate; would you condemn 'The decline and fall of the Roman Empire' because Gibbon had little faith in Christianity. Let us remember what opposition such men as Darwin, Copernicus and Galileo encountered. How church and state combined to smear and deride, but the truth they taught still stands. Even something later has happened within the U. S. A. that many of us have not forgotten - the story of the Wright Bros. and Billy Mitchell. You will remember the chief jokesters of their time was within military and congressional circles even a president of the United States hated Mitchell because he was trying to explain a scientific fact to medieval minds.

"As late as 1941 nearly all of the military and political groups both of England and the U. S. contended the Red army would succumb quickly to the German invaders. Many of us knew better, why? because we had been reading more honest and reliable authors. We knew the beginning of World War II was not Sept. 1939, but when Japan invaded China and we were always observing from the stand point of truth rather from that of lies and wishful thinking.

"Soviet leaders now are pointing to a fact that politicians and capitalist of this and other countries would like to forget - namely, the U. S., England and France are directly responsible for World War II.

1st. They built the military might of the Axis powers by furnishing them with everything they needed for rearming and by trade agreements we know by the name of cartels many books by reliable authors prove this 'Germanys Master Plan' by Borkin and Welsh. 2nd Failing to form an alliance with the U.S.S.R. in the early 30's to stop rearmament. This aiding of Hitler was based upon the desire of powerful groups to see Germany destroy the U.S.S.R.

"To deny this Congressman Scrivner, would equal to denying that the Pacific ocean doesn't wash our Western Coast or tall redwood trees do not grow in California.

"The last paragraph of your letter I think shows clearly why the U. S. and the U.S.S.R. are not farther advanced along the path of peace and understanding.

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"As to Geo. Seldes I want to ask you if you have ever read his 'Lords of the Press' can you deny the great service he has done and will do for the people of this nation? Do you for a minute beleive that the vast majority of the press and radio speaks for the best interest of the American people? Since you have derided Communist - I wish to remind you there are many people within your district who are not anti communist and who are seeking facts and they will not be deceived by the crude lies of the N.A.M. and others. I lived many years under the shadows of 'Tom's Town', similar conditions existed in every large city in the United States.

"The annals of the Republican and Democratic parties are replete with corruption, misrule and betrayal.

"Now the story of communist parties throughout the world is different from Russia to China, therefore I cannot understand your extreme readiness to discount the truth as advanced by communist. Under our constitution and laws they have the same rights as given to any other political party. And I will say in closing that all of the communist men or women I have known were outstanding for intelligence and culture.

Yours for disarmament and peace,

/s/ O. W. Johnson

The Washington Field Office also forwarded information received from Congressman SCRIVNER, who in turn had received the information from the files, records and publications of the Committee on Un-American Activities that concerned ANNA LOUISE STRONG, GEORGE SELDES, MICHAEL SAYERS and ALBERT KAHN. These were photostatic copies, and the information contained therein is being retained in this office and is not set forth in this report inasmuch as the material pertains to the above mentioned individuals, and subject's name does not appear therein.

Captain L. L. RICHARDSON of the Kansas State Highway Patrol, Iola, Kansas, advised on 10-12-41 that Mr. WILLIAM GRIFFETH, Superintendent of Schools at Bucyrus, Kansas, advised him that he, GRIFFETH, called on the O. W. JOHNSON home regarding their son who at that time lost some money in school, and about all the subject could talk about was Russia's superiority, and gave him some Communistic literature believed to have been printed in New York. GRIFFETH also told him that JOHNSON was all wrapped up in the

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Russian Government and Communistic ideas, and is truly sincere in his "Red" belief. JOHNSON appeared to be well versed in that type of literature, according to GRIFFETH. GRIFFETH also informed Captain RICHARDSON that several years prior to 1941 a few "Red" pamphlets were handed out, possibly by ROBERT JOHNSON, son of subject, to the JOHN WILLIAMS' children at Bucyrus to take to school. At that time GRIFFETH was conducting a class on the subject of "The Constitution".

Captain RICHARDSON also interviewed Mr. JOHN LASKIE, 1900 E. 29th Street, Topeka, Kansas, and Mr. LASKIE advised that he formerly operated a filling station at Bucyrus, Kansas, and that JOHNSON was a customer of his. Oftentimes LASKIE said subject wanted to bring some Communistic literature for him to read, and that Mrs. JOHNSON had told him (LASKIE) that subject reads Communistic literature all of the time and preaches it to his oldest son, but that the son does not think much of it. Mr. LASKIE pointed out that subject did not have any associates other than an occasional caller from Kansas City, but it was understood at that time that he attended meetings in Kansas City. It was the belief of Mr. LASKIE in October, 1941, that subject could be influenced to carry on Communistic activities in a most seditious nature.

Subject's actions and activities have been noticed ever since he moved into the vicinity of Bucyrus about five years prior to 1941, according to LASKIE. In October, 1941, subject owned and operated a dairy located $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles west and $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles south of Bucyrus, and delivered milk to homes in Kansas City, Kansas and Kansas City, Missouri.

On 8-20-40 Mr. M. JACOBSON, of 4636 Bell, Kansas City, Missouri, advised that O. W. JOHNSON of Bucyrus, Kansas, an American who operated the Maple Leaf Dairy, was in his opinion a Communist. He further stated that subject used to write letters apparently of this type indicating his beliefs in the People's Column in the Kansas City Journal. This, according to JACOBSON, had taken place prior to 1940, and at the time Mr. JACOBSON made this information available it had been discontinued. He had no further information regarding O. W. JOHNSON.

In December, 1941, OTTO MURPHY of the Independent Dairy Co., formerly Health Department Inspector, who first became acquainted with subject about 1920, advised that JOHNSON for seven or eight years prior to 1941 delivered milk into Kansas City, Kansas and Missouri for the Maple Leaf Dairy. MURPHY stated that subject carried a gun and ammunition, in his milk truck; that he seemed to be of a rather violent nature; and that he had expressed Communistic tendencies many times. Further, he said that JOHNSON advocates the overthrow of the Government by force, if necessary.

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MURPHY further stated that it was his opinion that subject is a fanatic along economic lines, and he described the subject as being a "nut".

Mr. DONALD PORTER, manager of the Kansas City Bottle Exchange, advised in December, 1941, that subject is well read on Russia, Russian methods of Government, and the Russian economic set-up. He stated that he knew subject carried a gun, and that subject had expressed himself as saying no one would be able to bother him. According to PORTER, JOHNSON did not define what he was protecting himself from. He also related that subject seemed to be a fanatic.

The following investigation was conducted by the writer:

At Spring Hill, Kansas

Mr. J. E. GAY, postmaster, advised that it was generally rumored in the vicinity of Spring Hill and Bucyrus that during World War II subject on one occasion flew a red flag at his residence. He related that he did not recall any specific date and had only received the information from others whom he could not identify at this time. He also mentioned that subject at the present time is circulating a petition and urging the election of Henry Wallace for Presidency. He mentioned that subject resided in the vicinity of Bucyrus for at least the past 10 or 12 years, with the exception of a short period of time during the war when JOHNSON was employed by the North American Aviation Co. at Kansas City, Kansas.

Mr. GAY was also of the opinion that during World War II he had heard from some source that subject was sympathetic to the German cause, but had no definite information along those lines. He did not consider subject mentally unbalanced, but said that JOHNSON in some ways was peculiar, although he seemed to be well versed on Governmental issues and the world situation as a whole. This indicated to him that JOHNSON had above the average intelligence, although when expressing his opinions he leaves the impression that he is a fanatic on political and governmental topics. GAY could not recall subject receiving any mail from a foreign country, but did point out that he receives the "Daily Worker". As far as he knew subject did not belong to any organizations and was definitely certain that he did not have a following in that community. He said the citizens in the area more or less put up with his rambling talk praising Russia, but he was not considered an individual who was dangerous, in his opinion.

Mr. GAY mentioned that subject's wife's name is ELSIE, with whom he resides on approximately a 160 acre farm located between Bucyrus and

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Spring Hill. His records reflected that subject had two sons, ROBERT and EUGENE, but those two individuals are not residing with subject or his wife.

Mr. GAY further advised that a check of the money orders sent from his post office for the past four years did not reveal any information of value, as the majority of the money orders were sent to mercantile agencies and mail order houses. It was his opinion that JOHNSON was not a patriotic American, although from information that he had been able to ascertain in that community, subject was born in the United States.

He advised that he knew subject had carried on various conversations in the barber shop of HAROLD DEY at Spring Hill, and had numerous conversations with FRED FILKINS, who presently operates a shoe shop in the 800 block on Massachusetts Ave. in Lawrence, Kansas. This shoe shop is located on the east side of the street and in a leather goods store. Further, Mr. GAY mentioned that FRED FILKINS formerly was a neighbor of subject when subject resided in Kansas City, Missouri, and formerly operated a shoe repair shop at Spring Hill and still resides in that community.

JACK TIMMONS, rural mail carrier, advised that JOHNSON recently asked him what he thought of Wallace. TIMMONS said that he did not think too much of him, and subject then asked him whether he was a member of the American Legion. He replied in the affirmative, and subject went on to state, "The little fellows have to stick together and cooperate to beat the big fellow and put Wallace into office." JOHNSON also asked him how he felt about compulsory military training, and before he could reply, subject went on to orate to him his feelings and beliefs concerning compulsory military training. TIMMONS stated subject was definitely against military training and rearmament of the United States. JOHNSON was straightforward in telling him too that he did not approve of the American Legion, and said something concerning the foreign governments' views on military training and organizations, but he could not recall what country was mentioned or the statement made by JOHNSON, as he was becoming disgusted with the conversation and desired to leave him.

TIMMONS stated that subject receives the publication "In Fact". He has in the past had delivered magazines, but could not recall the name of any of them. He could not furnish any information as to whether subject was a member of any organization, and at no time did he have any conversations with subject relative to JOHNSON'S pro-Russian viewpoints as had other individuals in that locality. He also mentioned that the entire area

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around Bucyrus had information that during the war subject was alleged to have flown a red flag. Inasmuch as he was away from that community between 1942 and 1945, he could not state whether this was definitely true or just a rumor. It was TIMMONS' opinion that subject is mentally sound, but a fanatic on Russia. He said that almost all the people in that community pay little or no attention to his remarks, and subject appears to have no following. At the present time he mentioned that the only individuals on the JOHNSON farm are subject and his wife.

He also recalled that in the past he has taken letters from JOHNSON to be mailed, and those letters were addressed to some of the known radio commentators and some of the newspaper writers. He could not recall any specific individual to whom subject has been writing.

GLENN MELTON, owner of the Mobilgas Station, advised that the only conversation he had with subject was concerning Henry Wallace. He said subject was campaigning for Wallace and tried to influence his thinking along those lines. He also advised that subject is a customer of his and never in his presence has he criticized the U. S. Government or spoken in favor of Russia or any other foreign power. He said that he had heard from various people in town and in that community that subject was pro-Russian, and that his sympathies were with the Communists, but he himself had no direct information concerning this. He also heard the rumor concerning the red flag alleged to have been flown by JOHNSON, but had no details concerning that. He suggested that one WALTER CRAWFORD, a farmer residing near the JOHNSON farm, be interviewed as he thought possibly CRAWFORD might have some first-hand information relative to subject.

Mr. R. A. DUNMIRE, Vice-President and Cashier, Spring Hill State Bank, advised that subject at one time did a little business with that bank, but at the present time has no account. He said that he has heard from numerous individuals concerning subject's pro-Russian attitude. These conversations he mentioned were almost always one-sided, with subject doing the majority of the talking. In numerous cases he said individuals to whom subject addressed his remarks became angry and almost wound up in a fight. He said that subject desires to make himself appear an authority on government issues, and apparently does quite a bit of reading, because he has heard JOHNSON make quotes to other individuals. DUNMIRE said that he has had little or no conversations with JOHNSON, and the conversations that he did have with him were of a business nature and did not involve any current topics or governmental issues. He further advised that he was positive subject had no associates or following in that community, as most of the individuals put up with him temporarily and then disregarded the remarks made by him.

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According to Mr. DUNMIRE, the subject's wife some six or seven years ago had a very poor reputation in that community. He said the entire community gossiped about Mrs. JOHNSON'S activities with various men in that community. He pointed out that from individuals with whom he had conversed he ascertained that Mrs. JOHNSON'S morals were very poor.

He suggested that JOHN LASKIE, Legionnaire, formerly of Bucyrus, and presently employed in the State Income Tax Department at Topeka, Kansas, should be interviewed. He also suggested that S. H. WINKLER, a farmer residing in the vicinity of the JOHNSON farm, as well as ARCH HOOK, poultry and egg dealer, resided at Bucyrus and should be interviewed.

Mr. DUNMIRE stated that subject at the present time is operating his farm and is not engaged in any dairying activities. He also advised that subject in the past used to write to the editors expressing his views on current topics, but he has not seen any articles appear in a newspaper at Kansas City, Missouri under subject's name or initials for quite some time. These, he said, usually appeared in the column "The Reader's Mind".

LEONARD DAWSON, proprietor of a grocery store, advised that from about 1937 to about 1945 he operated a Star Route at Bucyrus and Spring Hill, and although he had numerous conversations with subject he could not recall any definite statements or opinions expressed by him. He did, however, remember that all the statements made were pro-Russian. In fact, he said that JOHNSON appeared to be a fanatic on that subject, and at one time wanted to show him a magazine, but he could not recall the name of that magazine. He further related that on one occasion during the war he recalled that subject told him that the Russians would never crack and would come out of the war triumphant. He said this was about the time that Germany was making progress in Russian territory. DUNMIRE pointed out that subject, in his opinion, appeared to be "a soap box orator" who liked to impress the people in that community with the fact that he reads considerable literature, and therefore has the current topics well in mind. He did not consider subject dangerous to the community, nor did he believe that subject had a following. To the best of his knowledge subject received most of his information pertaining to Russia from magazines or books, and not from attending organizational meetings. He did point out, however, that subject in his opinion was the type of individual who was so bound up in his pro-Russian attitude that he would be the type of individual who could be led easily or influenced by any subversive group.

Relative to Mrs. JOHNSON, he also pointed out the poor reputation that she maintained in that community some five to seven years ago, but to the best of his knowledge she did not take part in any conversations with other individuals in the community nor did she express any opinions such as subject does on Russia.

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Mr. DAWSON suggested that BILL MELTON, manager of the Blacker Lumber Co. at Bucyrus, be contacted as he understood that subject had numerous arguments with MELTON.

At Bucyrus, Kansas

Mrs. FRANCES Z. WOLF, postmaster, advised after checking her money order records, that on 11-13-47 Money Order #46481 in the amount of \$2.50 was mailed by Mrs. O. W. JOHNSON, Route 2, to the publication "In Fact", 280 Lafayette Street, New York City. She said that the JOHNSON family received their mail through the Spring Hill post office, although occasionally Mrs. JOHNSON secures a money order from that post office. She said that from time to time she hears of individuals in town who become involved in an argument with subject because of his pro-Russian statements and attitude, but that she herself has never had any discussion with him. She said Mrs. JOHNSON was very quiet and never engaged in any conversations pertaining to this country or to Russia. She pointed out that subject had one son, ROBERT, who was in the Army during World War II, and she was of the opinion he had two or three daughters, none of whom were living at home. She suggested that Mr. JESS D. CAMP, a reliable farmer at Bucyrus, be contacted as he resides in the vicinity of the JOHNSON farm.

Mr. JOHN ROMAN, Superintendent of Schools, was contacted but could not furnish any information pertaining to subject.

Mr. CARL WOLF, Asst. Manager, Blocker Grain Co., advised that subject had resided in that community for the past 12 years or so, and over that span of years he has always known JOHNSON to be pro-Russian. Before World War II he recalled JOHNSON telling him that the Russians had better living conditions than the Americans. He pointed out that anybody who wanted to could converse with subject, and he did not hesitate in expressing his pro-Russian viewpoints. He pointed out that around the past Christmas subject mentioned to him that his children were going to be at his farm for Christmas dinner. However, instead of stating it just in that form, subject told him that there would be a group of Communists on his farm for Christmas dinner. It was his opinion that subject stated this information in that manner because he had previously become involved in an argument with JOHNSON over subject's campaigning for Wallace. He said there was no doubt in his mind that subject was a "lover of Russia", but did not believe subject advocated the overthrow of this country by force or violence. He got the impression that JOHNSON wanted the Russian type of government in this country and is continually talking about the big financiers and the big money men ruling or controlling everything in the

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United States. From time to time he recalls subject quoting some statement that he read in a book or magazine, and mentioning the name of the individual who wrote the article, but those names were not familiar to him and he made no note of them. He said generally he, as well as other members in the community, consider subject harmless and "just put up with him".

Mr. WOLF said when he had the argument with him at Christmas, he was about ready to throw JOHNSON out of the store, but he did recall subject stating that "he'd never see the light if he didn't read or take into account some other opinions other than what he reads in the newspapers." Never in his presence did subject mention that he was a member of any organization, and as far as he knew no one had ever told him that subject had attended any meetings in Kansas City or elsewhere which involved the Communist Party.

DURAH W. WATTS, former Commander of the John P. Hand American Legion Post, at Louisburg, Kansas, and presently Deputy Sheriff out of Paola, Kansas, advised that he at one time worked at a filling station at Bucyrus and has lived in that community for a great number of years. He said that JOHNSON would enter into a conversation with him at any time regarding the Russian form of government and would go into detail explaining the conveniences in Russia together with details, pointing out that their Government is better than the U. S. Government. Along these lines subject told him that in Russia everybody has a nice modern and well equipped home with plenty to eat, and everyone is on an equal plane, with no worries. This statement was made to him about six months ago, and when other conversation was engaged in at Bucyrus.

WATTS previously and at that time asked subject why he did not go to Russia to live if he loved that country as he says he does, and subject told him that he had no desire to go to Russia, stating that the United States was a fine country, but what this country needed was the Russian type of government over here. He pointed out that subject does not believe most of the information set forth in the American Press, and claims that the Russian papers, as well as Communist literature, is more authentic. There was no doubt in his mind that JOHNSON was well advised on the Russian Government as well as the Communist policies, as he appeared to read that type of literature almost exclusively. This pro-Russian attitude of subject, according to WATTS, has been existent for at least ten years. He understood that when subject's children were younger, they took some Communist literature into the Bucyrus School at one time. During the past 10 years he mentioned he had numerous arguments with JOHNSON, and takes a delight in taking the opposite viewpoint of subject to get him into a heated argument.

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About 1934 or 1935, when subject had a milk route, he had some sort of insignia on his truck, and JOHNSON pointed out that the insignia was an insignia of the Technocrats. JOHNSON at that time said that he was a member of that organization, and had in fact invited him to some of their meetings. To the best of his knowledge subject had not become a member of the Communist Party and does not speak of the Communist Party when reiterating his pro-Russian remarks. He did point out that subject is a great admirer of Stalin and during World War II recalled subject saying that Stalin could get to the Germans any time he wanted. This statement was made about the time Germany was overrunning the Russian territory. To the best of his knowledge subject had never made any visits to Russia and has not gone out of town to any pro-Russian meetings. During one Fourth of July during the last war he said individuals in the area of Bucyrus had mentioned that subject flew a red flag at his residence instead of an American flag. He thought that perhaps R. R. CRAWFORD, residing in the rear of the post office, could furnish some information regarding this incident.

WATTS pointed out that generally speaking subject is not critical of Congress, of the President, or the unions. He said in his opinion subject has a "one track mind", and when reading literature tries to adapt his reading material to his pro-Russian thinking. Subject in no way is discreet in his conversations and will discuss Russia with anyone. WATTS thought that JOHNSON was not dangerous to the community, but was the type of individual who would be easily persuaded by individuals sympathetic to Russia in the event this country got into war with Russia. He considered subject mentally sound but a fanatic on Russia or Stalin. He has no following in the community as far as he knew and the individuals generally put up with his conversation for a matter of minutes, and then either argue with him or walk away from him.

WATTS said that Mrs. JOHNSON did not maintain a good reputation in the community, but he did want to point out that she does not engage in any of the conversations with individuals in the community such as does the subject. His two sons are not residing at home, and as far as he could recall they were not of the type to voice their opinions. WATTS could not recall subject at any time advocating the overthrow of the U. S. Government by force or violence.

WATTS concluded by stating that subject's brother-in-law and sister, who reside in Kansas City, Missouri, do not associate with subject very much because of his pro-Russian attitude.

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At Olathe, Kansas

GLENN ABEL, Deputy Sheriff, advised that they have received no complaints regarding subject. It is to be noted in this regard that Spring Hill is in Johnson County, Kansas, and comes under the jurisdiction of the sheriff's office at Olathe, but that Bucyrus is under the jurisdiction of the sheriff's office at Paola, Kansas.

ERNIE MESSNER, proprietor of a clothing store, advised that he was not acquainted with subject. He suggested that KING DE TAR, proprietor of a filling station and Commander of an American Legion Post at Spring Hill, be contacted.

Mr. F. E. BREINER, of the Oak Investment Co., advised that he was acquainted with subject, but that Mr. H. P. THOMAS, Vice-President of the First National Bank, formerly was a resident at Bucyrus, and he thought he could furnish valuable information regarding subject.

At Kansas City, Missouri

Mr. D. E. TROUTMAN, Clerk of the Superintendent's Office, Kansas City Terminal Railroad, made available the files relative to OTIS JOHNSON, which reflected he was employed there from 8-3-08 to 9-28-20 as a fireman and engineer. On the latter date he was dismissed for holding two jobs at the same time. In 1920 he and his wife operated a grocery store in Kansas City, Kansas, and this was objectionable from the railroad's point of view.

These files show that he was born 9-23-84 at Hollday, Kansas; that his wife is ELSIE A. JOHNSON; that his father was JOHN H. JOHNSON of Lenexa, Kansas, who in 1908 was living. His mother at that time was deceased. Previous to being employed by the Kansas City Terminal Railroad he was working for the Missouri Pacific Railroad as a fireman from 7-8-07 to 7-25-08. There was no information in his file as to his loyalty to this country.

Mr. D. PENNINGTON, in charge of Sunday Desk Editorials, and Mr. H. HAGGERTY, in charge of the Reader's Mind Desk, both of the Kansas City Star newspaper, advised that they do not file any articles printed coming from the public, nor do they keep any of the original letters sent to them by citizens.

The records of the Kansas City Star newspaper morgue were checked relative to subject, and they did not contain any articles written by subject to the newspaper. The files, however, did contain a news article entitled, "Fined on Milk Charge"; "O. W. Johnson accused of Sale of Unclean Products".

KC 100-1717

This article appeared under dateline of 12-18-44, and stated that JOHNSON, operator of the Maple Leaf Dairy, Bucyrus, Kansas, was fined \$50.00 in the South Side Court after he had been found guilty of selling unclean, misbranded and improperly labeled milk in Kansas City, Missouri.

The records of the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department were negative as to OTIS W. JOHNSON.

The records of the Kansas City, Missouri Police Department reflect that subject was arrested on 9-3-26 for careless driving, and the case was dismissed the following day.

The records of the Merchants Credit Bureau reflect that in November, 1943, subject was employed by the North American Aviation Co., and resided at the Reid Hotel, Kansas City, Missouri. His wife at that time was employed as a clerk at the Parkview Drug Store, 10th and Locust. There was no other pertinent information in the files of the credit bureau.

Confidential Informant [] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that OTIS W. JOHNSON was not a member of the Communist Party at Kansas City, Missouri.

The following is a description of subject:

Name	OTIS W. JOHNSON
Residence	Rt. 2, Spring Hill, Kans.
Occupation	Farmer
Marital status	Married, wife, ELSIE JOHNSON
Sex	Male
Color	White
Born	9-23-84, Holliday, Kansas
Height	5'7"
Weight	165-170
Eyes	Brown
Hair	Brown-grey, heavy eyebrows

- P E N D I N G -

KC 100-1717

LEADS

THE LOS ANGELES DIVISION

AT INGLEWOOD, CALIFORNIA, will contact the Public Relations Dept. of the No. American Aviation Co. and ascertain from their records and investigate any information relative to the subject, who was employed during 1943 at their plant at Kansas City, Mo. Particular attention should be given as to subject's background and expression of his loyalty or disloyalty to this country.

THE KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT BUCYRUS, KANSAS, will interview the following individuals who are reported to be reliable and in a position to furnish information regarding subject:

WALTER CRAWFORD, Rt. 2

ARCH HOOK, poultry and egg distributor

S. H. WINKLER, farmer

JESS D. CAMP, farmer

R. R. CRAWFORD, residing in the rear of the post office

BILL MELTON, manager, Blocker Lumber Co.

AT SPRING HILL, KANSAS

HAROLD DEY, barber

KING DE TARR, filling station proprietor

AT TOPEKA, KANSAS

JOHN LASKIE, employed in the State Income Tax Bureau, formerly a resident of Bucyrus

AT LAWRENCE, KANSAS

FRED FILKENS, proprietor of the shoe repair shop located on the east side of the street in the 800 block on Massachusetts Ave. This shoe repair shop is located in a leather goods store. FILKENS, a resident of Bucyrus, was formerly a neighbor of subject in Kansas City, Missouri.

AT PAOLA, KANSAS, will make a check of the sheriff's office to ascertain if subject has a record with that department or if any complaints have been received relative to subject's loyalty or disloyalty.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles

DATE: May 19, 1948

FROM : SAC, Kansas City

SUBJECT: *100-26113**
OTIS W. JOHNSON, with aliases
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent ROBERT F. FETZNER dated March 31, 1948, at Kansas City, Missouri.

It is requested that a photograph of the Subject be obtained and forwarded to this office from the files of the North American Aviation Company at Inglewood, California, as this office has no source from which to obtain one.

RFF:VMD
100-1717

ml
c
Rec'd 5/22 g2

100-	26113	2
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION		
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE		
MAY 21 1948		
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE		
ROUTED TO	<i>L. W. Gibbs</i>	FILE <i>g</i>

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles

FROM : SAC, Kansas City *100-26113**

SUBJECT: OTIS W. JOHNSON, was.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C *up*

DATE: June 10, 1948

AIR MAIL
SPECIAL DELIVERY

Reference is made to report of Special Agent ROBERT F. FETZNER dated 3-31-48 and Kansas City letter to your office dated May 19, 1948.

In both the above-referenced report and letter, your office was requested to conduct an investigation at Inglewood, California, but to date no report has been submitted covering the requested investigation at the North American Aviation Company.

Inasmuch as this one lead can be covered in the regular course of business by agents calling at the North American Aviation plant, it would be appreciated if the matter would be expedited by your office.

RFF:RH
100-1717

Pr

100-26113-3	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
JUN 11 1948	
LOS ANGELES FIELD OFFICE	
ROUTED TO <i>P. W. Gibbs</i>	FILE <i>99</i>

c

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Kansas City**

FILE NO. **100-26113**

REPORT MADE AT LOS ANGELES	DATE WHEN MADE 6-21-48	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4-15; 6-8-48	REPORT MADE BY PAUL W. GIBBS
TITLE CHANGED OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject's personnel file at North American Aviation, Inc. reviewed and pertinent information set forth. No photograph of subject available.

- RUC -

REFERENCE: Report of SA ROBERT F. PETZNER, Kansas City, March 31, 1948.
 Kansas City memorandum to Los Angeles dated May 19, 1948.

DETAILS:

The title in this case is being marked changed to reflect the full name of the subject, OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON, which was obtained from the records of North American Aviation, Inc., Inglewood, California.

The personnel record of the subject at North American Aviation, Inc. reflects the following information:

JOHNSON filed an application for employment with North American Aviation, Inc., Kansas City, Missouri, on January 9, 1943 at which time his address was 2821 Ciesna, Kansas City, Kansas. His wife was listed as ELSIE A. JOHNSON and she was born in Kansas City, Kansas. The subject's father was listed as JOHN HARDEN JOHNSON and he was born in Indiana.

Subject's references were listed as: WALTER OLSON, 45th and Bell Streets, Kansas City, Missouri and TWIN CITY BANK, 43rd and State Line, Kansas City, Missouri.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		100-26113-4	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 Bureau 3 Kansas City 2 Los Angeles		COPI	

100-26113

Subject's application reflected that he owned his own home, had five children and the person to notify in case of accident was ELSIE A. JOHNSON. JOHNSON'S draft board was listed as Local Draft Board #1, Wyandotte County, 202 Kresge Blvd., Kansas City, Kansas.

JOHNSON was hired as a tool crib attendant at 60¢ per hour on January 26, 1943 and he was terminated on April 9, 1945 at which time he was making \$1.00 per hour. Subject signed an affidavit dated January 22, 1943 indicating that he was not a member of the Communist Party or the German-American Bund. Subject is eligible for rehire.

The following is a description of the subject:

Name	OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
Address	(last known) Route #2, Spring Hill, Kansas.
Age	63, born Sept. 23, 1884, at Chantoun, Kansas.
Race	White
Height	5' 6"
Weight	140 lbs.
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Scars and marks	None
Social Security No.	513-20-3001
Wife	ELSIE A. JOHNSON
Brother	OMER M. JOHNSON 2821 Cicero, Kansas City, Kansas
Son	OTIS M. JOHNSON

No photograph of subject was available at North American Aviation, Inc.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN

SAC, KANSAS CITY

August 2, 1950

SAC, LOS ANGELES

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
(Kansas City file 100-1717)

Mrs. ELSIE OWENS, 1137 South Geranio Drive, Alhambra, California, telephone ATLantic 15300, telephonically advised this office on July 31, 1950, at 10:15 A.M. that the above captioned resided at Rural Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, had a library in his home consisting of Russian and Communistic books. She stated that subject's wife is her long time friend and she does not believe that subject himself is dangerous in the event of war with Russia. She does not think that he is a member of the Communist Party nor has ever been to any meetings, but she does know that he reads books of this type and maintains a large library. She described subject as follows:

Male
White
50 years of age to 55.
5'11"
180 lbs.
Dark complexion
Dark hair and eyes
Scars or marks - none
Occupation - farmer.

This is being furnished for your information.

RE:RNR /
100-26113

100-26113-5

SAC, New York

1/23/52

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C

*100-26113**

Investigation reveals subject has received mail from the following addresses:

Suite 209-D, 1067 N. Fairfax, Hollywood 40, Calif. ✓

Suite B, 23 W. 26th, New York 10, N. Y.

Room 642, 799 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y.

P. O. Box 595, Muskegon, Michigan.

It is requested that New York, Detroit, and Los Angeles Offices conduct appropriate investigation to determine identities of persons or organizations using these mailing addresses and report to Kansas City.

SFJ:mcm

Cc: Detroit
Los Angeles ✓

*reopened
2-6-52
am.*

*Reopen
KC-1008
Assign*

100-26113-6

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 25 1952	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
<i>P.W. Gibbs</i>	

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

3/26/52

SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

Reurlet 1/3/52.

Reverend JOHN DRYER, Religious Film Foundation, 1067 North Fairfax, Hollywood 40, California, advised that the Religious Film Foundation had rented the complete second floor at this address for a period of several years. Reverend DRYER stated that for a few months late last fall, he had sublet part of the floor to ALBERT J. AMATEAU and SIDNEY J. STILLMAN, and they had used Suite 209-D, 1067 North Fairfax as a mailing address, although there is actually no Suite 209-D at this address.

Reverend DRYER further advised that AMATEAU and STILLMAN operated as the Phil Stevens Company and as the Personal Sales Corporation. He further advised that they were dealers in questionable literature, including pinup and art photographs, nudist magazines, etc., and he had forced them to vacate from the premises of the Religious Film Foundation as soon as he found out what business they were in.

RUC
PWG/bal

cc: 71-372

Period: 2/20,26;3/19/52

100-26113-7



**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

FD-71
(7-30-45)



IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO

FILE NO. _____

COMPLAINT FORM

My m. Foster
62-0-25404/A

OTIS W. JOHNSON 100-26113
Subject's Name and Aliases

Spring Hill, Kansas RR #2
Address of Subject
SM - C

Character of Case

MYRON ERNEST FOSTER
Name of Complainant
4847 VistaDeOro Ave., IA
Address of Complainant
AX 1-7946
Telephone Number of Complainant
2:10PM 12/8/53
Date and Time Complaint Received

DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECT: Born Sept. 23, 1883, Kansas; grey hair; about 5'8"; 180lbs.,
well read; proprietor of a dairy farm.

FACTS OF COMPLAINT: Comp. advised subject is a brother whom he has not seen since 1939
and that he recently received a letter from the brother stating subject wanted
to visit comp. for several weeks this winter. Comp. advised his brother has always
been a radical, running down the capitalists etc., and it is comp. opinion his
brother might be a communist although he has never actually discussed communism
or mentioned Russia as far as comp. knows. Comp. has heard, however, from one
of his brothers back east that subject at one time had his children passing out
CP literature at their school.

ACTION RECOMMENDED BY AGENT:

Include subject file if ident., if not ident. 100-0

dictated let to KC acting head
above
4

100-26113-8

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
DEC 8 1953	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

J. K. CROWE
Special Agent

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

12/15/53

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C

Re L.A. letter to Kansas City 3/26/52.

On 12/8/53, MYRON ERNEST FOSTER, 4847 Vista De Oro Ave., L.A., telephone AX 1-7946 (conceal), telephonically furnished the following information to complaint agent, SA J. K. CROWE:

FOSTER advised that OTIS W. JOHNSON, Spring Hill, Kansas, R.R. #2, is his brother, whom he has not seen since 1939. FOSTER advised he recently received a letter from JOHNSON indicating that JOHNSON intended to visit with FOSTER in L.A. this winter. FOSTER advised that his brother, OTIS JOHNSON, has always been a radical, running down the capitalists, etc. It is complainant's opinion that his brother might be a Communist although he has never actually discussed Communism or mentioned Russia to the complainant. FOSTER advised that a relative from Kansas, whose name he refused to give, had stated at one time subject had instructed his children to distribute CP literature at their school.

Since the above information appears to be identical with the subject of above-referenced letter, this information is being submitted to the Kansas City Office for whatever action is deemed necessary.

HHW:DRU
Reg.

RUC

St. J.

MB

100-26113-9

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

1/13/55

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON;
SECURITY MATTER - C.
(OO: Kansas City)

Reurlet January 4, 1955.

Garden Grove, California is in Orange County, which territory is covered by the San Diego Division. Your letter is therefore being forwarded to that division for appropriate action.

REGISTERED
JCFM:bla *bla*
cc: San Diego (encl.) (REGISTERED) *[Signature]*

7

Geo

100-26113-10

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-354572)

1/19/55

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON;
SECURITY MATTER - C.
(OO: Kansas City)

ReBulet dated January 14, 1955, and mylet to
Kansas City dated January 13, 1955.

Inasmuch as Garden Grove, California, is in
Orange County, which territory is covered by the San Diego
office, one copy of referenced Bulet is enclosed for San
Diego for appropriate action.

REGISTERED

(5)

JCFM:bla

cc: San Diego (encl. 1) (REGISTERED)



100-26113-14

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

January 14, 1955

Director, FBI (100-354572)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C
Kansas City Office of Origin

Re Kansas City letter January 4, 1955.

Los Angeles should verify Johnson's temporary residence, 12591 Luraleen, Garden Grove, California, promptly and advise Kansas City. Latter office should submit FD-128 showing permanent Kansas City residence and temporary residence at the verified California address as soon as possible in order that Security Index cards will show current information.

2cc - Los Angeles (100-26113)

1 copy to San Diego 1-19-55

100-26113-~~12~~-12

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>Jan</i>	FILED <i>Jan</i>
JAN 17 1955	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-354572)

2/2/55

SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-10522)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C
(OO: KANSAS CITY)

Rebulet to Kansas City, 1/14/55, a copy of which was directed to the Los Angeles Office, instructing that the address of captioned individual at 12591 Luraleen, Garden Grove, California, be verified as soon as possible.

Mrs. E. W. KING, 12571 Luraleen, Garden Grove, California, advised SA E. J. KIRBY on January 28, 1955, that OTIS JOHNSON is apparently the father of BOB JOHNSON who resides with his wife, MARIE, at 12591 Luraleen Street. Mrs. KING continued that OTIS JOHNSON and his wife are visiting in Southern California for the winter. She said they resided with BOB JOHNSON and his family for a short time, but are now residing at either the Venetian Court or the Venetian Square in Long Beach, California.

For information, BOB JOHNSON is employed at the Marie Callender Bakery in Long Beach.

Mrs. JAMES WALLACE, Postmaster, Garden Grove, advised that OTIS JOHNSON continues to receive mail at 12591 Luraleen Street.

The records of the Businessmen's Association (Credit Bureau) and of the Orange County Sheriff's Office reflect no record of OTIS JOHNSON.

No identifying data is available to this office.

Los Angeles is requested to determine subject's place of residence and advise Kansas City and the Bureau.

RUC.

EJK:WAC

cc: Kansas City (100-1717)
Los Angeles (2) (100-26113)

REGISTERED

Long 100-26113-13
Re: O.A. 30
1717-C
#3
MBP

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 4 1955	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Turner
with serials 1-4+9

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

2/17/55

SAC, San Diego (100-10522)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C
OO: Kansas City

100-26113*

Remylet to Bureau dated 2/2/55 with copies to Kansas City and Los Angeles.

On February 3, 1955, Mrs. ETHEL W. KING, 12571 Loraleen, Garden Grove, California, telephonically advised SA HENRY F. ALSTON that, according to the subject's son and daughter-in-law, subject was proceeding to San Diego, California, on February 3, 1955, and on February 6, 1955, would proceed to an unknown destination in Portland, Oregon. Mrs. KING was unable to ascertain whether the subject planned to return to Southern California.

The foregoing is submitted for the information of the Kansas City and Los Angeles offices.

RUC.

REGISTERED

2cc: Los Angeles (REGISTERED)

EJK:ls

100-26113-14

2

SEARCHED <i>ah</i>	INDEXED <i>Ac</i>
SERIALIZED <i>Ac</i>	FILED <i>Ac</i>
FEB 18 1955	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Turner *80.*

Director, FBI (100-354572)

3/1/55

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C
(Origin - Kansas City)

Rebulet to Kansas City, copies to Los Angeles, 1/14/55.

On February 24, 1955, [redacted] whose identity is known to the Bureau, advised that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON returned from California on February 22, 1955 and is now residing on his farm, Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas.

REGISTERED MAIL

DJW/hmg
(4)

1 cc: Los Angeles (info) (100-26113) (REG. MAIL)

*Case already
RUC'd to KC
E.D.*

100-26113-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>TAC</i>	FILED <i>TAC</i>
MAR 7 1955	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Turner *E.D.*

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-354572)

3/22/55

SAC, LOS ANGELES. (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM-C

OO: KANSAS CITY

Re San Diego letter to the Director dated 2/2/55.

By pretext telephone inquiry on 3/4/55, it was ascertained from BOB JOHNSON, OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON's son, who is employed at the Marie Callendar Bakery, Long Beach, California, that OTIS JOHNSON departed last week on his return to Spring Hill, Kansas. Accordingly, it was ascertained that JOHNSON should be home as of this period, and can be reached in care of Rural Route #2, Spring Hill, Kansas.

EDT: [signature]
REGISTERED

cc: Kansas City (100-1717) REGISTERED

(5)

- RUC - [signature]

[signature]

100-26113-16

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113)

DATE: 1/9/56

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM-C
(OO KC)

For the information of the Los Angeles and San Diego Offices, information was recently obtained by this office to the effect that O. W. JOHNSON and his wife are presently residing at the Venetian Square, Ocean Front Hotel, Santa Cruz, and Bonnie Brae in Long Beach, California. O. W. JOHNSON is a security index subject of the Kansas City Office. Information was also received to the effect that O. W. JOHNSON intends to remain in Long Beach until approximately April 1956, at which time he will return to his home in Kansas. He is receiving his mail, however, at the home of his son, ROBERT JOHNSON, who resides at 12591 Loreleen Street, Garden Grove, California.

The Los Angeles Office is requested to verify the subject's temporary residence in Long Beach and advise the Kansas City Office in order that the subject's security index card can be made correct and current.

RGB:LAC

(4)

REGISTERED

- ② - Los Angeles (100-26113)
- 1 - San Diego (100-10522)(Info)
- 1 - Kansas City (100-1717)

Long
100-26113-17
Re OTH
SM-C
OO KC
#3
map
SERIALIZED
JAN 12 1956
Long Beach
(with serials
15+16)

SAC, SAN DIEGO (100-10322)

January 24, 1956

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C
(OO: Kansas City)

Re Kansas City letter to Los Angeles dated January 9, 1956, a copy of which was furnished San Diego for information.

On January 18, 1956 a suitable pretext inquiry was made at the Venetian Square Apartments, 925 West Seaside, Long Beach, California, and no record of a Mr. and Mrs. JOHNSON from Kansas was noted as being occupants in that apartment building.

On January 18, 1956 SA RICHARD J. NELSON ascertained at the Venetian Square Ocean Front Hotel and Bungalows, Santa Cruz and Bonnie Brac Streets, Long Beach, California, that Mr. and Mrs. OTIS JOHNSON, home - Spring Hill, Kansas, checked into the hotel and bungalows on December 7, 1955 and occupied unit 108 until January 14, 1956, at which time they checked out and left no forwarding address.

The records of the Long Beach Municipal Utilities, 225 West Broadway, Long Beach, California, were reviewed by SA RICHARD J. NELSON in an effort to determine if JOHNSON had rented an apartment in the Long Beach area. The review of these records failed to locate any JOHNSON identifiable with the subject.

It is requested that the San Diego Office make inquiries in the vicinity of the home of subject's son, ROBERT JOHNSON, 12591 Loreleen Street, Garden Grove, California, to determine if subject and wife are staying at that address.

2 - San Diego (Registered)
2 - Kansas City (100-1717) (Registered)
1 - Los Angeles

RJN/ajm
(5)

Gr
Rue #3
mzp

100-26113-18

LA 100-26113

It is noted that on previous contacts the services of Mrs. E. W. KING, 12571 Loreleen Street, Garden Grove, were utilized.

RUC.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES

FROM : SAC, SAN DIEGO

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
OO: KANSAS CITY

DATE: 2/7/56

Re Los Angeles letter to San Diego 1/24/56.

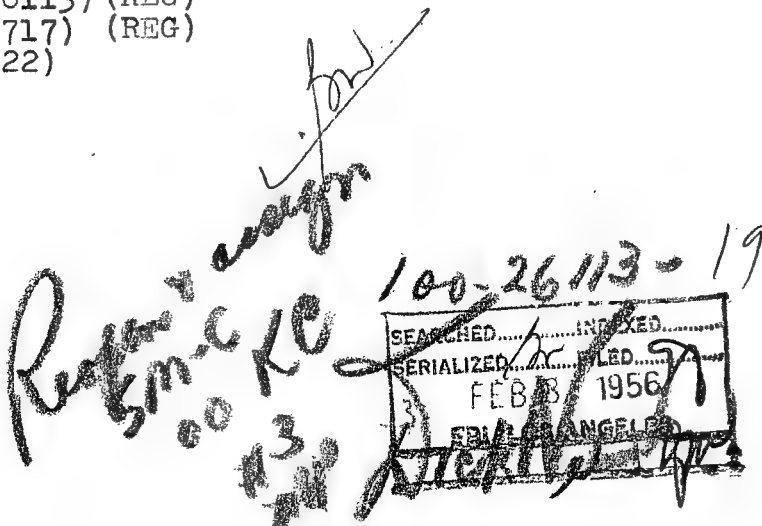
Pretext neighborhood investigation on January 30, 1956 in the vicinity of 12591 Loreleen Street, California, residence of subject's son ROBERT JOHNSON, disclosed no information regarding subject's present whereabouts.

Mrs. ROBERT JOHNSON, 12591 Loreleen Street, Garden Grove, California was telephonically interviewed on January 31, 1956 by SA EDWARD J. KIRBY under the pretext that the caller met subject in Long Beach, California recently and was given the Garden Grove telephone number as the place to get in touch with him. Mrs. JOHNSON advised the subject is residing around the corner from the Venetian Square Apartments in Apartment 21, at Long Beach, California. She continued she believes the apartment building number is 815, but that she cannot recall the name of the street. She stated the street is the same street as that on which the Pike is located. It is a street open only to pedestrian traffic. The Apartment house has some 25-30 apartments. Subject does not have a private phone. The telephone is listed to the apartment house. She does not have the telephone number available.

The Los Angeles office is requested to determine the subject's residence address at Long Beach, California.

RUC

- ② - Los Angeles (100-26113) (REG)
1 - Kansas City (100-1717) (REG)
1 - San Diego (100-10522)
EJK;plc
(4)



CHARGE OUT SLIP - SERIALS

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

FILE 100-26113 Date _____
Class. Case No.☐ Closed ☐ Pending

Serial No. Description of Serials Date Charged

20 transferred into [redacted] 2-19-57Rev # 1OK. mEmployee Re: Eugene Victor Johnson
RECHARGE Date _____

To _____ From _____

Employee_____
Location

AIRTEL

////

AIRTEL

FBI, LOS ANGELES

10:00 AM

2-15-56

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON. SM - C.

OO: KC.

ReSDlet to LA 2-7-56.

On 2-15-56 a canvas of Seaside Boulevard apartment houses was conducted and the name OTIS W. JOHNSON was noted by SA RICHARD J. NELSON on the mailbox for Apt. 21, Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, Calif.

On 2-15-56 a pretext call was made by SA RICHARD J. NELSON to the Island View Apartments along the lines of relet and it was ascertained Mr. and Mrs. OTIS JOHNSON resided as above indicated and have no separate telephone. *He submit 20.78.*

RUC.

MALONE

- 2 - Kansas City (AM REGISTERED)
- 1 - Los Angeles (100-26113)

RJN/mew
(3)

man

RUC
#3
mwp
[Signature]

AIRTEL

100-26113-21

and Bonnie Brae in Long Beach, California. He was visiting a son, ROBERT JOHNSON, at 12591 Loreleen Street, Garden Grove, California.

On February 15, 1956, JOHNSON's name was observed on the mail box for Apartment 21, Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California.

T-5 informed on February 20, 1956, that JOHNSON's lease expired on February 28, 1956, at the Island View Apartments and that he was returning to Spring Hill, Kansas, possibly by way of San Francisco, California, where he would spend several days sightseeing.

II. MISCELLANEOUS

T-1, on various dates from October 20, 1954, to September 6, 1955, informed that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON, Rural Route 22, Spring Hill, Kansas, was the recipient of the publication "People's China".

T-6 stated that this publication is a fortnightly review published by the Foreign Language Press, Peking, China, which is in Communist China. It is printed in the English language. T-6 also informed that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON, Rural Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, U. S. A., is the recipient of this same publication.

T-2 informed that the Civil Rights Congress, Harlem Division of New York City, maintained a list of individuals who had made donations to various Civil Rights Congress sponsored campaigns. Among the persons whose names were carried on this list was OTIS W. JOHNSON, Route number 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, who was shown to have contributed \$10 on August 16, 1948.

T-3 advised on October 21, 1954, that the Communist Party had originated a variety of campaigns which were to be used as fund drives and were sponsored by various Communist Party front groups. The Civil Rights Congress was responsible in 1948 for several fund drives.

Both the Communist Party and the Civil Rights Congress have been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

KC 100-1717

T-4 made available information on January 3, 1955, which indicated that OTIS W. JOHNSON had sent in a request for a renewal of his subscription to the "New World Review" when his existing subscription expired. The "New World Review" was formerly known as "Soviet Russia Today", which has been cited as a Communist front by the Public Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, on June 25, 1942, and March 29, 1944.

This same informant, on December 27, 1954, advised that on that date he had observed a letter, dated January 19, 1951, signed OTIS W. JOHNSON, bearing the return address Spring Hill, Kansas. This letter reads as follows:

"Spring Hill, Kansas.
Jan. 19th 1951.

"Soviet Russia Today:

"Find enclosed check for \$2.50. Two dollars donation and 50 cents for "Heroic Leningrad". No matter what the name the great amount of documentary material is the thing valuable, I recommend the close reading of your publication to Dreier, Beatty, Murrow and others.

"Yours Respectfully,

/s/ "Otis W. Johnson (farmer)

"P.S. I can do a short article on factual experience of a midwest American farmer, that might dispel many myths and false notions held by European people as to the high financial cultural status of the average American farmer.

"I would accept no pay."

T-5 informed on March 30, 1955, [redacted]

[redacted] GORDON MONROE, described by this informant as the leading Communist Party member in the Kansas City area. MONROE had stated at that time that [redacted] should attempt to contact OTIS JOHNSON

KC 100-1717

and get him to come to Kansas City to try to sell Communist Party literature. On July 6, 1955, T-5 advised that on July 2, 1955, he had seen OTIS W. JOHNSON.

On September 20, 1955, FRANK P. LAWLEY, JR., Assistant Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, made available correspondence which had been directed to the Governor of Pennsylvania regarding STEVE NELSON. STEVE NELSON was described by T-7, on July 1, 1955, as Chairman of District 5, Communist Party, United States of America, and as such the director of activities of the Communist Party in Western Pennsylvania.

Records of the Quarter Sessions Court, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, reflect that on October 17, 1950, a True Bill was returned by a Grand Jury charging STEVE NELSON with violation of the Pennsylvania Anti-Sedition Law of 1939. The records of this court further reflect that NELSON was found guilty of the above charge on July 10, 1952, and was sentenced to serve twenty years in the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, Workhouse and was fined \$10,000 and costs. On July 29, 1952, NELSON filed an appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, which on January 25, 1954, reversed the judgment in the case and quashed the indictment on the grounds that the United States Congress in passing the Smith Act had pre-empted jurisdiction in this type of case. On July 24, 1954, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania filed a petition requesting the Supreme Court of the United States to review the NELSON case.

Records of the United States District Court, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, reflect that NELSON was convicted for violation of the Smith Act of 1940 on August 20, 1953, and was sentenced to serve five years in a penitentiary-type institution. NELSON is presently at liberty under \$25,000 bond, pending an appeal to the United States Supreme Court.

Among the material furnished by Mr. LAWLEY was a letter from OTIS W. JOHNSON, dated August 4, 1952, at Spring Hill, Kansas. In this letter JOHNSON in part

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

states he is protesting against the infringements upon the human rights and that Fascism in this country seeks to destroy our civil liberties, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the peaceful assemblage of the people. This is a typewritten letter, including the signature.

On September 10, 1952, JOHNSON wrote a letter to Governor FINE of Pennsylvania about the "outrageous treatment that Steve Nelson is receiving at the hands of a power mad group within your state". He said that a mass meeting was being planned for Kansas City and that "We also intend to acquaint the people of Europe, Asia and Africa with every detail of this illegal procedure."

On January 12, 1953, JOHNSON wrote another letter to Governor FINE, in which he included clippings from a newspaper concerning STEVE NELSON's imprisonment. Included in the clippings was a letter from his wife, MARGARET NELSON. JOHNSON protested against the alleged brutality in the Pennsylvania Prison System.

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FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

KC 100-1717

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
T-1 ARTHUR GRADWOHL U. S. P. O. San Francisco, California	People's China	10-20-54 to 9-6-55	DOUGLAS G. ALLEN and PATRICK J. HAGGERTY, JR.	100-1717
T-2 NATHAN WASSERSTEIN Manager 53 West 125th Street New York City	CRC Records	8-6-54	ELLSWORTH GUSTAFSON and EARL C. MCCOOL	100-1717-1A1-4
T-3 [REDACTED]	Characterization of CRC fund drives			
T-4 [REDACTED]	New World Review and Soviet Russia Today correspondence	1-3-55 12-27-54	MALCOLM J. BARRETT and SE FRANCIS W. MILLER	100-1717-1A1-5 100-1717-1A1-6
T-5 [REDACTED]	3-29-55 7-2-55	3-30-55 7-6-55	ROBERT G. BURKE ROBERT G. BURKE	[REDACTED]
T-6 CLARENCE BERVEN Post Office Seattle, Washington	People's China	7-5-55	JOSEPH G. WALTERS	100-0-9914
T-7, [REDACTED]	Characterization of STEVE NELSON.			

The identity of the above informants was concealed by temporary symbol number because they were either security informants of the FBI, employees of the Post Office Department, or person who made available records of the Civil Rights Congress, whose identity should be concealed because of the nature of the records.

The Security Index card pertaining to this subject is in a current status and is correct. It is still felt that this subject should be retained on the Security Index because of his indiscreet nature, which would probably be turned to destructive action in the event of an emergency.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

KC 100-1717

LEADSLOS ANGELES DIVISION: (INFORMATION)

An information copy is being forwarded to the Los Angeles office because serials and Security Index card were going to be forwarded to Los Angeles until it was learned through [] that subject's vacation was terminating and he was returning to Kansas City.

REFERENCE

Report of SA DOUGLAS J. WILLIAMS dated September 30, 1954, at Kansas City.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE (CONTINUED)

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113)

DATE: 11/28/56

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
OO KC

As the LA office is aware, the above subject is a security index subject of the KC office, and for the past several years has made a trip to Southern California during the winter months.

[] advised on 11/21/56, that JOHNSON had gone again to California for the winter and that he had departed en route to LA on 11/17/56. [] stated that JOHNSON indicated he would again reside at the Island View Apartments, 841 W. Seaside Blvd., Long Beach, Calif., and probably would not return to his home in Kansas until approximately March, 1957.

LA is requested to verify JOHNSON's residence in Long Beach.

REGISTERED
RGB:mf
(3)

under
Handwritten signatures and initials
100-26113-23

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 30 1956	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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12/27/56

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

TO : SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON. SM - C.

OO: Kansas City.

Reurlet dated 11/28/56.

By appropriate pretext inquiry SA EMERY D. TURNER ascertained on 12/27/56 that captioned, intending to spend the winter, presently resides at the Island View Apartments, Apt. 17, at 841 W. Seaside Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

Kansas City should submit forms FD-122 and FD-128.

RUC.

MALONE

2 - Kansas City
1 - Los Angeles

EDT:sjk
(3)

AIRTEL

100-26113-24

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113)

DATE: 1/16/57

FROM : *Pur* SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

Kansas City - Origin

Reur airtel 12/27/56.

In view of the fact that information has been received by this office that subject intends to return to his permanent address in the Kansas City Division by approximately 3/1/57 and, pursuant to Bureau instructions, FD-128 changing office of origin is not being submitted.

However, FD-122 is being submitted to Bureau showing the Long Beach, Calif., residence as a temporary address.

In the event information comes to the attention of the Los Angeles Office indicating that the subject is returning, or has returned, to the Kansas City Division, that information should be furnished. Likewise Los Angeles will be notified of his return to his permanent address in Kansas.

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REG. MAIL
HGB/hmg
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Jickler
60 Days
** 3 days*
done
done

100-26113-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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3 JAN 21 1957	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113) DATE: 3/20/57

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

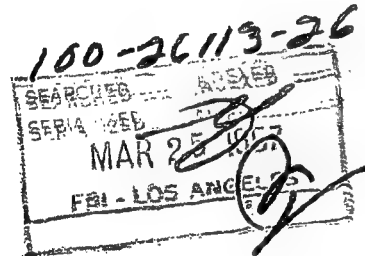
SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

Kansas City - Origin

Re Kansas City letter to Los Angeles 1/16/57.

For information of Los Angeles, [redacted] advised on 3/18/57 that subject had returned to his home, Route 2, Spring Hill, Ks., on 3/18/57. FD-122 is being submitted to Bureau in order to delete Long Beach, Calif., as a temporary residence address.

REGISTERED MAIL
LKW/hmg
(3)



~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office KANSAS CITY	Office of Origin KANSAS CITY	Date 3/22/57	Investigative Period 3/18/57
TITLE OF CASE OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON <i>100-26113*</i>		Report made by SA L. KEITH WILLIAMS	Typed By: fs
		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

Synopsis:

Subject resides Route #2, Spring Hill, Kansas, and is self employed as a farmer. Confidential informant has advised subject continues to have association with known Communists in the Kansas City area.

- C -

DETAILS:

BACKGROUND

RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

T-1, who has reported reliable information in the past, advised on March 18, 1957, that subject continues to make his residence at Route #2, Spring Hill, Kansas. T-1 further stated subject returned this date from temporarily residing at 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California. According to T-1 subject is self employed as a farmer.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 4-Bureau (100-354572)(RM) ①-Los Angeles (100-26413)(Info)(RM) 3-Kansas City (100-1717)		100	26113 27
		SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒ SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒ 3 MAR 25 1957 FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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KC 100-1717

ACTIVITIES

T-1 advised on April 3, 1956, that on March 28, 1956, GORDON MONROE stated that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON should be contacted to determine if he would contribute toward the salary of a new district organizer of the Communist Party.

T-1 advised on April 3, 1956, that GORDON MONROE is a member of the Communist Party and a leading figure in the Kansas City area.

T-1 advised on April 3, 1956, that on April 1, 1956, subject purchased a copy of the "Worker".

The "Worker" is the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker", an East Coast Communist newspaper.

T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on May 2, 1956, that on April 27, 1956, subject was in touch with the Committee to End Sedition Laws, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

T-1 advised on June 5, 1956, that on May 27, 1956, GORDON MONROE instructed that subject be extended an invitation to attend a party to be sponsored by the Kansas City Group of the Communist Party that was planned for Swope Park, Kansas City, Missouri, on June 9, 1956.

T-1 advised on June 27, 1956, that on June 19, 1956, subject attended a meeting held at the Paseo YMCA, Kansas City, Missouri, at which the speaker was CARL MARZANI. MARZANI stated at the meeting he was being sponsored in a speaking tour by the Liberty Book Club. T-1 further stated subject made a \$1.00 contribution at the conclusion of MARZANI's lecture.

CARL MARZANI, according to the May 1, 1956, edition of the Liberty Book Club News, was on a speaking

KC 100-1717

tour. MARZANI was identified in this issue as the Executive Vice President of the Liberty Book Club.

MARZANI, on May 22, 1947, after a trial in U. S. District Court, Washington, D. C., was found guilty on all eleven counts of an indictment charging him with having made false statements to representatives of the U. S. Government concerning the fact that he was not a Communist Party member. Judgment was upheld, and on March 25, 1948, Judge RAYMOND B. KEECH, U. S. District Court, Washington, D. C., committed MARZANI to serve the remainder of his one to three year sentence in a Federal Penitentiary.

MARZANI refused to answer all questioning concerning past or present Communist Party membership on June 18, 1953, before a public session of the Senate Sub-Committee on Internal Security.

On June 19, 1956, Special Agents of the FBI observed subject at a meeting held at the Paseo YMCA, at which time the speaker was CARL MARZANI. Among those attending were JOHN and BEVERLY SAGE.

T-1 advised on June 27, 1956, that JOHN and BEVERLY SAGE were members of the Communist Party in Kansas City.

T-1 advised on July 18, 1956, that on July 15, 1956, MARION SIMMONS advised she had sent subject a letter and undisclosed literature to read, and indicated she intended to visit with subject at the latter's home on July 22, 1956.

On July 18, 1956, T-1 advised that MARION SIMMONS has been meeting with Communist Party members in the Kansas City area for the past several months, and that her Communist Party dues were \$5.00 per month.

T-1 advised on July 23, 1956, that on July 22, 1956, MARION SIMMONS visited subject at the latter's

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FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

KC 100-1717

farm

T-1 advised on February 14, 1957, that on January 29, 1957, GORDON MONROE gave to BEVERLY SAGE a list of names of persons to be invited by the Kansas City Communist Party Group to an open study meeting on Socialistic doctrines, among which was the name of the subject.

- C -

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KC 100-1717

APPENDIX

COMMITTEE TO END SEDITION LAWS

A Confidential Informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on February 3, 1955, that the Committee to End Sedition Laws was established in November, 1954, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by ALLAN D. MC NEIL, District No. 5, Communist Party member. The main objective of the Committee was the abolition of all Sedition Laws.

KC 100-1717

APPENDIX

THE LIBERTY BOOK CLUB

A Confidential Informant, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised on December 9, 1948, that he had been told by a Communist Party organizer that a group of Progressives and Communists, at the suggestion of the New York State Committee of the Communist Party, decided to form a new book club to give wide circulation to the works of Communist and Progressive writers. The book club so formed was the Liberty Book Club, which is presently located at 100 West 23rd Street, New York City, having moved December, 1953, from 1123 Broadway, New York City.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity And/or Description of Information</u>	<u>Date Received</u>	<u>Agent to whom Furnished</u>	<u>File Number where Located</u>
T-1 is	Residence and Employment of Subject			Instant report

T-1 is

Residence and Employment of Subject

Instant report

" 3/28/56

" 5/27/56

" 6/19/56

" 7/15/56

" 7/22/56

" 8/13/56

" 1/29/57

Used to characterize GORDON MONROE

Used to characterize JOHN and BEVERLY SAGE

Used to characterize MARION SIMMONS

T-2 is

4/27/56

100-1717-201

used to characterize Committee to End Sedition Laws.
 used to characterize the Liberty Book Club.

One copy is being designated to the Los Angeles Office for information purposes inasmuch as subject during each year makes a temporary residence at Long Beach, California.

Careful consideration has been given in each instance where T symbols have been used in this report. They were used only in those instances where it was deemed absolutely necessary.

Subject is a Security Index Subject of the Kansas City Office. This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index Criteria, and it is felt that subject continues to fit the criteria.

KC 100-1717

Subject's SI card has been reviewed, and the information reflected thereon is correct and current. A suitable photograph is maintained in the file.



Special Agents engaged in the physical surveillance on June 19, 1956, were SAs D. J. WILLIAMS, RICHARD H. ASH and ROBERT G. BURKE.

REFERENCE

Report of SA D. J. WILLIAMS dated 3/5/56 at Kansas City.

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES

DATE: 12-17-57

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C
(Origin - Kansas City)

As Los Angeles is aware, the above subject is a security index subject of the Kansas City Office and for the past several years has made trips to Southern California during the winter months.

[] advised on 12-11-57, that O. W. JOHNSON departed from Kansas City at 1:15 A.M., that date, on board the El Capitan, Santa Fe Railroad, en route to Long Beach, California. [] advised that JOHNSON would again reside at the Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California, and probably would not return to his home in Kansas until late February or early March, 1958.

Los Angeles is requested to verify JOHNSON's residence in Long Beach. He is accompanied by his wife.

2-Los Angeles (100-26113) (RM)
2-Kansas City (100-1717) []

RGB:vjb
(4)

Mrs ROBERT POTTHOFF,
MGR. Island View Apts, 841
W. SEASIDE BLVD. LB - HE 50812

Reassign
3M-C
00 LA
37MBP

100-26113-28

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
3 DEC 20 1957	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Trk George RBQ

F B I

Date: 1/30/58

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIR TEL AIR MAIL - REG. MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
Kansas City - Origin

Re Kansas City letter to Los Angeles 12/17/58.

On 1/28/58, [] stated that he had recently heard from subject who advised he was living at the same address where he stayed last year in Long Beach, Calif. According to [] the address given by JOHNSON was the Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Blvd., Long Beach, Calif.

Los Angeles verify.

AM - RM
LKW/hmg
(3)RC'd
RR9

100-26113-29

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
3 FEB 3 1958	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Dick [Signature]

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

February 5, 1958

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON

SM - C

OO: Kansas City

On 1/29/58, Mrs. ROBERT POTTHOFF, Manager, Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California, advised SA RICHARD B. GEORGE that subject and his wife have resided in apartment 22 at this address since mid-December, 1957. She stated that the JOHNSONS plan to end their vacation and return to Kansas City on about 4/1/58.

RUC. *[Handwritten signature]*

2 - Kansas City (REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

RBG:cey

(3) *cey*

100-26113-30

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AIRTEL

3/27/58

FOIA(b) (7) - (D)

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

REGISTERED

TO: SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)
RE: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
(OO: KC)

Remylet, 2/5/58.

On 3/27/58 Mrs. ROBERT POTTHOFF, Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Blvd., Long Beach, Calif., advised SA RICHARD B. GEORGE that subject and wife left Long Beach for Kansas City via Santa Fe Railroad on evening of 3/25/58.

Subject has completed vacation and is returning home.

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2 - Kansas City
1 - Los Angeles
RBG:jse

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100-26113-31

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office KANSAS CITY	Office of Origin KANSAS CITY	Date 4/11/58	Investigative Period 4/7/58
TITLE OF CASE OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON		Report made by SA L. KEITH WILLIAMS	Typed By: nk
		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

Synopsis:

Subject continues to reside at Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, and is self-employed as a farmer. Confidential informants advise subject has continued association with Communists in the Kansas City area and subject contributed to the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund.

-C-

DETAILS:

BACKGROUND

RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT:

On April 7, 1958, T-1 advised that subject resides at Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, where he is self-employed as a farmer.

Approved	Special Agent in Charge	Do not write in spaces below	
Copies made: 4-Bureau (100-354572)(RM) ① Los Angeles (100-26413) (Info.)(RM) 3-Kansas City (100-1717)		100-26413-32	
		SEARCHED..... INDEXED..... SERIALIZED..... FILED..... APR 11 1958 FBI - LOS ANGELES	

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ACTIVITIES:

The Communist Party, United States of America, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

T-1 advised on March 3, 1957, that subject's name was contained in the list of names of persons to be solicited by the Communist Party group of Kansas City to attend a series of lectures on Socialism, to commence March 20, 1957.

T-1 advised on June 28, 1957, that on June 26, 1957, subject was sent a written invitation to attend a meeting sponsored by the Kansas City group of the Communist Party at the mission of REUBEN BLACKBURN, 601 Osage, Kansas City, Kansas. T-1 advised on June 28, 1957, that REUBEN BLACKBURN is a member of the Kansas City group of the Communist Party and holds the position of librarian for the group.

T-2 advised on July 2, 1957, that subject made a \$5.00 contribution to the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund on June 10, 1957.

Mr. EDWIN H. HEIMER, Western Employers Service, Incorporated, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, California, advised on September 25, 1956, that JOHN WILLIAM POWELL in August, 1956, had informed him that the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund had recently been organized to collect money to defray the expenses for himself, SYLVIA POWELL and JULIAN SCHUMAN in connection with their forthcoming trial for violation of the Sedition Laws of the United States. Mr. HEIMER also stated that POWELL mentioned that CHARLES MATTOX was the treasurer of this organization.

The records of the United States District Court, San Francisco, California, reflect that on April 25, 1956, The Federal Grand Jury, San Francisco, California, returned an indictment charging JOHN and SYLVIA POWELL of San Francisco, and JULIAN SCHUMAN of New York, with Sedition and/or Conspiracy to commit Sedition. The indictment charged that the POWELLS and SCHUMAN, while associated with the "China Monthly Review", Shanghai, China,

KC 100-1717

from 1950 to 1953, caused to be printed in this magazine false statements, which among other things accused the United States of conducting germ warfare in Korea.

The defendants have not as yet been tried on these charges.

T-3 advised on April 11, 1944, that CHARLES MATTOX was then a member of the Echo Park Branch, Midtown Section, Los Angeles County Communist Party,

The "Daily Worker" was an East Coast Communist newspaper which suspended publication on January 13, 1958.

"Political Affairs" is the official monthly theoretical organ of the Communist Party, USA, according to the testimony of ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, self-admitted member of the Communist Party, USA, on October 20, 1952, in connection with the trial of the United States versus ELIZABETH GURLEY FLYNN, ETAL.

T-1 advised on October 23, 1957, that EUGENE JOHNSON is the leading member of the Communist Party in Kansas City, Kansas, and is in charge of literature distribution in the Greater Kansas City area.

T-1 advised on October 23, 1958, that JAMES WRIGHT is a former member of the Communist Party in Texas and now regularly meets with the Kansas City group of the Communist Party.

On December 21, 1957, T-1 advised that on December 16, 1957, MARTHELLA WARD was advised by EUGENE JOHNSON that when she took up her residence in Los Angeles, California, that she should put herself in touch with

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

KC 100-1717

subject at his temporary residence in Long Beach, California. He would in turn put her in touch with persons holding Communist views in that area.

T-1 advised on December 21, 1957, that MARTHELLA WARD was a regular participant in meetings of the Committee on Socialist Unity, which according to informant was organized, controlled and dominated by the Kansas City group of the Communist Party.

On April 7, 1958, T-1 advised that subject has not been seriously encouraged to actively affiliate with the Kansas City group of the Communist Party because they consider his views to be so radical that he is difficult to control and discipline in his activities in behalf of Communism.

-C-

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-4-

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Kansas City 6, Missouri

April 11, 1958

**Re: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C**

T-1 through T-3, whose identities are concealed in report of Special Agent L. KEITH WILLIAMS, dated April 11, 1958, at Kansas City, have furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is loaned to you for your information and should not be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

KC 100-1717

100-26113-33

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 14 1958	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-354572)

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

OO - Kansas City

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of report of SA L. KEITH WILLIAMS, dated 4/11/58, at Kansas City and four copies of letter head memorandum.

Enclosed for Los Angeles is one copy of above report and one copy of letter head memorandum.

REFERENCE

Report of SA L. KEITH WILLIAMS, dated 3/22/57, at Kansas City

INFORMANTS

Identity of Source	Date of Activity and/or Description of Information	File Where Located
T-1 is [redacted]	Employment, residence of subject	Instant report
"	3/3/57	[redacted]
"	6/26/57	
"	10/21/57	
"	12/16/57	
"	Subject's status with party	

Used to characterize REUBEN BLACKBURN, EUGENE JOHNSON and JAMES WRIGHT

2-Bureau (Enc. 8)(100-354572)(RM)
1-Los Angeles (Enc. 2)(100-26413)(RM)
3-Kansas City (100-1717)

LKW:nk
(6)

100-26413-34

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
3 APR 14 1958
FBI - LOS ANGELES

KC 100-1717

<u>Identity of Source</u>	<u>Date of Activity and/or Description of Information</u>	<u>File Where Located</u>
T-2 is EDMUND J. LEVERONI, Manager Columbia Avenue Branch, American Trust Company, San Francisco	6/10/57	100-1717-228
T-3 is 	4/11/44	100-1717-228

LEADSLOS ANGELES: (INFORMATION)

An informational copy of this report is being designated for Los Angeles, inasmuch as subject spends the winter each year at Long Beach, California.

KC 100-1717

1. ☒ Subject's name is included in the Security Index.
2. ☒ The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3. ☐ Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4. ☒ A suitable photograph ☒ is ☐ is not available.
5. ☒ Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
6. ☐ Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are _____
7. ☒ This report is classified confidential because (state reason)
it contains information received from confidential informants, the disclosure of which would jeopardize their security and adversely affect the national security.
8. ☒ Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason)
9. ☐ This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10. ☒ This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason)

subject is a dedicated Communist who continues to support the CP program and front causes; circulate and purchase literature.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113)

DATE: 12/17/58

FROM : SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM-C

As the Los Angeles Office is aware subject is on the Security Index of the Kansas City Office and during the past several years has made trips to southern California to reside for the winter season.

[redacted] advised on 12/10/58 that subject left Kansas City via railroad on 11/24/58 for Long Beach, Calif. Informant understood subject would again stay at the Island View apartments, 841 West Seaside Blvd., Long Beach, Calif. Informant related that it was his impression that subject would remain at this location until about March, 1959.

Los Angeles is requested to verify subject's residence at Long Beach.

REGISTERED MAILLKW:lib
(3)

Handwritten: 100-26113-35
Handwritten: Kansas City
Handwritten: 3768P

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
3 DEC 19 1958	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Handwritten: Turner

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-354572)

1/7/59

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM-C

OO: KANSAS CITY

Reference Kansas City letter to Los Angeles,
dated December 17, 1958.

On January 6, 1959, it was ascertained from
ROBERT POTTHAFF, manager of the Island View Apartments,
841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California, that
captioned is presently residing there in apartment 20.
Mr. POTTHAFF also advised the captioned is apparently
retired, inasmuch as he spends his days playing "shuffle
board" on the apartment courts.

Logical informants who are familiar with some
phases of CP activity in the Long Beach area, contacted
January 5 and 7, 1959, advised that they had no knowledge
of captioned activities, if any, in the CP movement.

In view of the foregoing, Kansas City is requested
to submit Form FD 128.

2 - Bureau
1 - Kansas City (100-1717)
1 - Los Angeles

EDH:jds
(4)

Rule
3
WSP

pl

100-26113-3

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

(100-354572)

DATE: 1/14/59

FROM : SAC,

Kansas City (100-1717)

SUBJECT:

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
Kansas City - 00

☐ It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

☒ The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (specify change only):

Name		
Aliases		
☐ Native Born	☐ Naturalized	☐ Alien
☐ Communist	☐ Socialist Workers Party	☐ Independent Socialist League
☐ Miscellaneous (specify) _____		
☐ Tab. for Detcom	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Date of Birth	Place of Birth	
Business Address (show name of employing concern and address)		
Key Facility Data		
Geographical Reference Number		Responsibility
Interested Agencies		
Residence Address		

Route 2, Spring Hill, Ks., (permanent)
Island View Apartments, Apt. 20, 841 W. Seaside Blvd.,
Long Beach, Calif. (temporarily on vacation until 4/1/59)

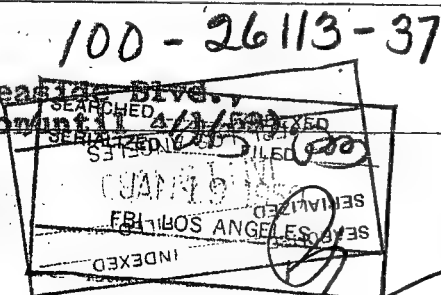
2 - Bureau (RM)

① - Los Angeles (100-26113) (info) (RM)

1 - Kansas City

REGISTERED MAIL

hmg (4)



Director, FBI (100-354572)

1/14/59

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
Kansas City - 00

Re Los Angeles letter to Bureau 1/7/59.

Enclosed to Bureau are two copies of FD-122 and 1 copy is being furnished Los Angeles for information.

In view of the fact that information is in possession of the Kansas City Office that subject intends to return to his permanent address in Kansas City Division by approximately 4/1/59, FD-128, changing Office of Origin is not being submitted.

FD-122 is being submitted to reflect the Long Beach, California, address as a temporary address.

In the event information comes to the attention of the Los Angeles Office relative to subject returning to Kansas City, Los Angeles is requested to advise Kansas City. Likewise, Kansas City will notify Los Angeles of his return to permanent address in Kansas.

2 - Bureau (encl. 2) (RM)
2 - Los Angeles (100-26113) (encl. 1) (RM)
1 - Kansas City
LKW/hmg
(5)

Lickler
2/14/58
3 mhp

100-26113-38

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>PS</i>	FILED <i>PS</i>
3 JAN 19 1959	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

DATE: 3/26/59

FROM : SUPERVISOR M. B. PASH

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
OO: Kansas City

Re KC let to Director, dated 1/14/59.

Relet advised subject, who has been residing at Apt. 20, Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, intends to return to his permanent address in Kansas City Division by approximately 4/1/59.

LEADAT LONG BEACH

Will contact ROBERT POTTHAFF, manager of the above apartment house, re subject's residence.

MBP

100-26113-39

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 26 1959	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
TURNER 1/60	

gh
OTA
3
LW
T-5/10

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-354572)

4/9/59

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

OO: KANSAS CITY

Re Kansas City letter to Bureau, 1/14/59.

Mr. ROBERT POTHOFF, Manager of the Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Blvd., Long Beach, California, on 4/7/59 advised that captioned subject left Long Beach on 3/26/59, stating an intention to return to his farm in Kansas.

According to Mr. POTHOFF, subject's wife and son, ROBERT, also departed Long Beach with subject. The latter stated he had given up his job on the West Coast and would, in the future, be helping his father and mother on the farm.

The following logical informants, [redacted] and [redacted] were contacted 4/6/59, and [redacted] on 4/7/59, each of whom is familiar with the CP movement in the Long Beach area, but neither had any knowledge of OTIS JOHNSON's current sympathies or CP activities.

Inasmuch as Long Beach, California is not a permanent address, an FD-122 is being submitted by Los Angeles. KANSAS City should verify and submit FD-122

- 2 - Bureau (REGISTERED)
- 1 - Kansas City (Info)(100-1717)
- 1 - Los Angeles

EDT:jse
(4)

TURNER
(Info)

100-26113 - 40

Secret 4-8
Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

(100-354572)

DATE:

4/7/59

FROM : SAC, **Kansas City**

(100-1717)

SUBJECT: **OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON**
SM - C
Kansas City - 00

☐ It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual.

☒ The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should be changed as follows: (specify change only):

Name		
Aliases		
☐ Native Born	☐ Naturalized	☐ Alien
☐ Communist	☐ Socialist Workers Party	☐ Independent Socialist League
☐ Miscellaneous (specify) _____		
☐ Tab for Detcom	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female
Date of Birth	Place of Birth	
Business Address (show name of employing concern and address)		
Key Facility Data		
Geographical Reference Number _____ Responsibility _____		
Interested Agencies _____		
Residence Address Route 2, Spring Hill, Ks.		

2 - Bureau (RM)
① - Los Angeles (100-26113) (info) (RM)
1 - Kansas City

REGISTERED MAIL
hmg (4)

100-26113-41

SEARCHED <i>hmg</i>	INDEXED <i>hmg</i>
SERIALIZED <i>hmg</i>	FILED <i>hmg</i>
3 APR 10 1959	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
TURNER	<i>629</i>

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office KANSAS CITY	Office of Origin KANSAS CITY	Date 4-17-59	Investigative Period 4-4-59; 4-9-59
TITLE OF CASE OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON		Report made by L. KEITH WILLIAMS	Typed By: JC
		CHARACTER OF CASE SECURITY MATTER - C	

XXXX
Synopsis:

REFERENCE:

Report of Special Agent L. KEITH WILLIAMS
dated April 11, 1958, at Kansas City, Missouri.

- C -

Approved _____	Special Agent In Charge	Do not write in spaces below							
Copies made: 4 - Bureau (100-354572) (Registered) 1 - Los Angeles (100-26113) (Information) (Registered) 3 - Kansas City (100-1717)		100 - 26113 - 42							
		<table border="1"><tr><td>SEARCHED.....</td><td>INDEXED.....</td></tr><tr><td>SERIALIZED.....</td><td>FILED.....</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">3 APR 21 1959</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">FBI - LOS ANGELES</td></tr></table>		SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....	SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....	3 APR 21 1959	
SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....								
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....								
3 APR 21 1959									
FBI - LOS ANGELES									

Property of FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

KC 100-1717

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

KC T-1 is [REDACTED]

Used to characterize
Eugene Johnson, Jerome
Pearson, and the Eugene
V. Debbs Council of
Kansas City

KC T-2 is Hiram Walker,
assistant manager,
Columbus Avenue Branch,
American Trust Company
San Francisco, California
(by request)

KC T-3 is [REDACTED]

KC T-4 is [REDACTED]

KC T-5 is Stephen K. Louie,
(by request),
administrative assistant
Translation Section,
U. S. Customs,
San Francisco, California

File Where Located

Instant report
(Employment and Residence)

100-1717-253

100-1717-228

100-1717-258

ADMINISTRATIVE:

An information copy of this report is being
designated for Los Angeles inasmuch as subject spends
the winters of each year in Long Beach, California.

A.

(COVER PAGE)

1. ☒ Subject's name is included in the Security Index.
2. ☐ The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3. ☒ Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4. ☒ A suitable photograph ☒ is ☐ is not available.
5. ☒ Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
6. ☐ Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are _____
7. ☒ This report is classified confidential because (state reason)

it contains data reported from T-1, T-2, T-3, T-4, and T-5 which could reasonably result in identification of confidential informants of continuing value and compromise future effectiveness thereof.

8. ☒ Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason)

9. ☐ This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10. ☒ This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason)

subject is a dedicated Communist who continues to support the program of the Communist Party and front causes, to purchase literature, and to air his Communist sympathies to the public.

B.

(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of:
Date:L. KEITH WILLIAMS
4-17-59

Office:

KANSAS CITY

File Number:

KC 100-1717, Bufile 100-354572

Title:

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON

Character:

SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis:

Subject resides on Rural Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, and continues to be self-employed as a farmer. Confidential informants report that subject continues to associate with Communists in the Kansas City area, subscribe to Communist literature, and express pro-Communist views.

- C -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

16-74625-1 GPO

KC 100-1717

DETAILS:

BACKGROUND

Residence and Employment

KC T-1 advised on April 4, 1959, that subject resides on Rural Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, and is self-employed as a farmer.

Credit and Criminal

FLORENCE STEWART, clerk, Credit Bureau of Greater Kansas City, which bureau covers Spring Hill, Kansas, advised on April 4, 1959, subject has a satisfactory credit record with that bureau.

Deputy Sheriff ROMANO JONES, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, which office covers Spring Hill, Kansas, advised on April 9, 1959, that records of that department do not reflect any record identifiable with subject.

COMMUNIST AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

The Communist Party of the United States of America has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

KC T-1 advised on April 22, 1958, that on April 8, 1958, a copy of the bulletin announcing the formation of the Eugene V. Debbs Council was mailed to the subject, inviting him to participate in its activities.

KC T-1 advised on January 16, 1958, that on January 13, 1958, the Eugene V. Debbs Council of Kansas City was organized for the purpose of providing lectures, literature, and a meeting place for persons interested in Socialism. KC T-1 stated this organization was instigated and is dominated by Communist Party members from the Kansas City area who are utilizing Communist literature in the program of this organization.

KC 100-1717

KC T-2 advised on June 2, 1958, that on May 15, 1958, subject made a \$3 contribution to the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund.

Mr. EDWIN H. HEIMER, Western Employers Service, Incorporated, 995 Market Street, San Francisco, California, advised on September 25, 1956, that JOHN WILLIAM POWELL in August, 1956, informed him that the Powell-Schuman Defense Fund had been recently organized to collect money to defray expenses for himself, SYLVIA POWELL, and JULIAN SCHUMAN in connection with their forthcoming trial for violation of the sedition laws of the United States. Mr. HEIMER also stated POWELL mentioned that CHARLES MATTOX was treasurer of this organization.

The records of the United States District Court, San Francisco, California, reflect that on April 25, 1956, an indictment was returned by the Federal Grand Jury, San Francisco, California, charging JOHN and SYLVIA POWELL, of San Francisco, and JULIAN SCHUMAN, of New York City, with sedition and/or conspiracy to commit sedition. The indictment charged that the POWELLS and SCHUMAN while associated with the "China Monthly Review", Shanghai, China, from 1950 to 1953 caused to be printed in this magazine false statements, which among other things accused the United States of conducting germ warfare.

The defendants were brought to trial in Federal District Court, San Francisco, California, on January 26, 1959. On January 30, 1959, a mistrial was declared in this case, following which the defendants were charged with treason in connection with their activities during the course of the Korean war.

The defendants have not as yet been tried on these charges.

KC T-3 advised on April 11, 1944, that CHARLES MATTOX was then a member of the Echo Park Branch, Mid-town Section, Los Angeles County Communist Party.

KC 100-1717

KC T-1 advised on September 5, 1958, that on this date EUGENE JOHNSON, subject's son, obtained a subscription to the "Worker" for subject.

The "Worker" is an east coast Communist weekly newspaper.

KC T-1 advised on September 5, 1958, that EUGENE JOHNSON was a member of the Kansas City group of the Communist Party.

On September 25, 1958, JOHN HERRINGTON, Radio Station WDAF, Kansas City, Missouri, made available a letter to the Kansas City Office received by MEL MAINES, newscaster at the broadcasting station, from subject dated September 24, 1958, in which subject was extremely critical of news releases broadcasted by MAINES concerning the Formosa straits crisis. Subject informed in his letter he considered the Chinese Communists to be legally right in this controversy.

KC T-4 advised on October 10, 1958, that during September, 1958, subject received a request to renew his subscription to the "Peking Review".

KC T-5 advised that the "Peking Review" is a pro-Chinese Communist publication.

On October 28, 1958, ROBERT HIGBY, announcer, Radio Station WDAF, Kansas City, Missouri, received a letter from subject dated October 27, 1958, which he made available to the Kansas City Office. Subject in his letter criticized HIGBY for HIGBY's broadcast of a report concerning the Chinese Communist hit parade. Subject accused HIGBY of representing the position of enslavers and exploiters, and slobbering, hypocritical Christianity. Subject informed HIGBY that China under the leadership of Mao Tse Tung is on the road to great achievement.

KC T-1 advised on November 25, 1958, that on November 21, 1958, JEROME PEARSON requested subject to contribute \$5 per month to the Communist Party in Kansas City. Subject told PEARSON his financial position was "bad"; consequently, he could not afford to make this contribution.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

KC 100-1717

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

KC T-1 advised on November 21, 1958, that JEROME PEARSON is a member of the Kansas City group of the Communist Party.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-5*-

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

KC 100-1717

**Kansas City, Missouri
April 17, 1959**

**OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C**

T-1 through T-5, whose identities are concealed in the report of Special Agent L. KEITH WILLIAMS dated April 17, 1959, at Kansas City, Missouri, have furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is loaned to you for your information and should not be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

DATE: 3/25/60

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

OO: Kansas City

Re Los Angeles letter dated 4/9/59.

On 3/21/60, [] advised that captioned subject was currently spending his vacation at the Island View Apartments, 841 W. Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California. The subject is not currently employed and will return to Kansas City to his permanent residence, Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, approximately 5/1/60. - >>

LEADS

LOS ANGELES OFFICE:

AT LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Will verify subject's temporary residence at the above address to contact logical informants familiar with Communist Party activities in the Long Beach, California area regarding activities of the subject. //

② Los Angeles (RM)
1 Kansas City
REK:slh
(3)

Covered 4/7/60

*Refer assign
SM-C
OO Kansas City
3MBP
Z*

100-26113-43

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 28 1960	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Turner

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717

4/11/60

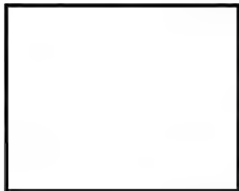
SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C
OO: Kansas City

Re Kansas City letter dated 3/25/60 to Los Angeles.

On 4/7/60, ROBERT POTTHOFF, Manager of the Island View Apartments, 841 W. Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California, advised that OTIS JOHNSON had visited the West Coast residing at the Island View Apartments in Long Beach but had departed 4/1/60 stating his intention to return home to Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas.

Logical informants who are generally familiar with Communist Party activities in the Long Beach area advised they had no knowledge of OTIS JOHNSON's activities, if any, in the Communist Party movement at Long Beach, California. Informants contacted were as follows:

 on 4/5/60, by SAA EMERY D. TURNER;
on 4/6/60, by SA EMERY D. TURNER;
on 4/7/60, by SA EMERY D. TURNER.

In view of the foregoing, no further action is contemplated by the Los Angeles Office.

RUC

2-Kansas City (RM)
①-Los Angeles

EDT:jmp
(3)

File mo
3m370

100-26113-44

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Reporting Office KANSAS CITY	Office of Origin KANSAS CITY	Date 4/14/60	Investigative Period 2/19 - 4/13/60
TITLE OF CASE OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON		Report made by SA ROBERT E. KENT	Typed By: CW
		CHARACTER OF CASE SM - C	

Synopsis:

REFERENCE:

Report of SA L. KEITH WILLIAMS, dated 4/17/59 at Kansas City.
Kansas City letter to Los Angeles, dated 3/25/60. (inter-office)

- P -

LEADS: LOS ANGELES DIVISION: (INFORMATION)

Leads are currently outstanding in the Los Angeles Office per referenced letter. One copy of this report is furnished for the assistance of the Los Angeles Office and as subject spends the winters of each year in Long Beach, California.

No further action nec.

KANSAS CITY DIVISION:

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Will follow authorization of removal of Security Index

Approved **Card by the Bureau.**

Copies made:

4 - Bureau (100-354572)
(REGISTERED MAIL)

1 - Los Angeles (100-26113)
(Info) (REGISTERED MAIL)

3 - Kansas City (100-1717)

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
3 APR 18 1960
FBI - LOS ANGELES

Pickler 5/1/60

KC 100-1717

INFORMANTS:

Identity of Source

T-1 is

[REDACTED]

Characterizes EUGENE JOHNSON
JEROME PEARSON

T-2 is

[REDACTED]

T-3 is

[REDACTED]

File Where Located

Residence, employment
and status of health,
instant report

[REDACTED]

100-1717-265

B.
(COVER PAGE)

1. ☒ Subject's name is included in the Security Index.
2. ☒ The data appearing on the Security Index card are current.
3. ☐ Changes on the Security Index card are necessary and Form FD-122 has been submitted to the Bureau.
4. ☒ A suitable photograph ☒ is ☐ is not available.
5. ☒ Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.
6. ☐ Subject is employed in a key facility and is charged with security responsibility. Interested agencies are _____.
7. ☒ This report is classified Confidential because (state reason)

It contains data reported from T-1 and T-2 which could reasonably result in identification of these current, active, confidential informants to the detriment of the internal security of the United States.

8. ☒ Subject was not reinterviewed because (state reason)

9. ☒ This case no longer meets the Security Index criteria and a letter has been directed to the Bureau recommending cancellation of the Security Index card.
10. ☐ This case has been re-evaluated in the light of the Security Index criteria and it continues to fall within such criteria because (state reason)

11. ☒ Subject's SI card ☐ is ☒ is not tabbed Detcom.
☒ His activities ☐ do ☒ do not warrant Detcom tabbing.

C*

(COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of:

SA ROBERT E. KENT

Office: Kansas City

Date:

4/14/60

File Number:

EC 100-1717; Bufile 100-354572

Title:

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON

Character:

SECURITY MATTER - C

Synopsis:

Subject continues to reside at RR #2, Spring Hill, Kansas, and to be self-employed as a farmer. Confidential informants report subject made contribution to "The Worker" fund drive and was subscriber to "The Worker" in 1959. In June 1959, subject reportedly purchased copy of "New World Review".

- P -

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of any kind. It is the property of the FBI, and is a loan to your agency; it and/or its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

16-74825-1 GPO

KC 100-1717

DETAILS:

BACKGROUND

Employment:

On April 6, 1960, KC T-1 advised that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON was currently self-employed as a farmer at his farm located Rural Route #2, Spring Hill, Kansas.

Residence:

On December 10, 1958, KC T-2 advised OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON departed Kansas City November 24, 1958, to reside at Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California. JOHNSON was expected to remain at this address until March 1959.

On April 7, 1959, Mr. ROBERT POTTHOFF, Manager, Island View Apartments, Long Beach, California, advised that the subject, his wife and his son ROBERT departed Long Beach, California, March 26, 1959, stating intention to return to his farm in Kansas.

On April 2, 1959, KC T-1 advised that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON had returned to his residence at his farm, Rural Route #2, Spring Hill, Kansas.

On February 19, 1960, and March 21, 1960, KC T-1 advised that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON was currently spending his winter vacation at Island View Apartments, Long Beach, California. The subject was not currently employed and was expected to return to his farm approximately April 1, 1960.

On April 6, 1960, KC T-1 advised that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON was currently residing at his farm in Spring Hill, Kansas.

Status of Health:

On April 6, 1960, KC T-1 advised that OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON was 75 years of age and due to advanced age was not in good health. KC T-1 stated JOHNSON would be unable to handle his farm work alone in the future or for more than the next season.

KC 100-1717

CONNECTION WITH THE COMMUNIST PARTY

The Communist Party - USA, its subdivisions, subsidiaries and affiliates have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to the Executive Order 10450.

Miscellaneous:

On April 15, 1959, KC T-1 advised that as of April 6, 1959, JEROME (JERRY) PEARSON, in connection with a current fund drive on behalf of "The Worker" made the suggestion that a number of persons be contacted for contributions to this fund drive as well as to the Communist Party. Among the persons named by PEARSON in this regard was OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON.

On April 15, 1959, KC T-1 identified JERRY PEARSON as currently active in the Communist Party group in Kansas City, Missouri, and as having been active in Communist Party affairs for some years.

"The Worker" is an east coast Communist weekly newspaper.

On April 22, 1959, KC T-1 advised he had learned from [redacted] that on April 19, 1959, EUGENE JOHNSON and JERRY PEARSON visited the subject at his farm at Spring Hill, Kansas. [redacted]

On April 22, 1959, KC T-1 identified EUGENE JOHNSON as currently active in the Communist Party group in Kansas City, Missouri.

On May 29, 1959, KC T-3 advised the name OTIS W. JOHNSON, Springhill, Kansas, was indicated among the names and addresses of current subscribers maintained by "The Worker", 23 West 26 Street, New York City.

KC 100-1717

On June 22, 1959, KC T-1 advised that OTIS W. JOHNSON recently purchased a copy of "New World Review" from [REDACTED] A characterization of "New World Review" appears in the appendix hereto.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~APPENDIX"New World Review"

The Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications, House Document 226, revised and published as of January 2, 1967, by the Committee on Un-American Activities, U. S. House of Representatives on page 106, reflects New World Review cited as an organization specializing in pro-Soviet propaganda. It was formerly known as Soviet Russia Today.

(Internal Security Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Handbook for Americans, Senate Document 117, April 23, 1944, page 76).

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to

File No. 100-1717

Kansas City, Missouri
April 14, 1960

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C

Confidential informants whose identities are concealed in report of SA ROBERT E. KENT, dated April 14, 1960, at Kansas City, Missouri, have furnished reliable information in the past.

This memorandum is loaned to you for your information and should not be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

DATE: 11/29/60

FROM : SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

SUBJECT: OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SM - C

OO: Kansas City

Re Los Angeles letter to Kansas City dated 4/11/60.

By letter dated 4/26/60, the Bureau requested subject be retained in the Security Index at Kansas City. Subject's permanent residence is Route 2, Spring Hill, Kansas, an isolated farmhouse. There is need for a current photograph of subject, as subject has been ill and has not left his house so that he could be discreetly photographed.

Subject was en route to the home of his son ROBERT JOHNSON, Island View Apartments 841 West Seaside Boulevard, Long Beach, California, and is not expected to return to Kansas City until spring.

LEAD

LOS ANGELES DIVISION:

AT LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

Will verify subject's temporary residence at 841 West Seaside Boulevard, determine his habits and obtain current photograph of subject.

2 Los Angeles (RM)-
1 Kansas City
RPC:slh
(3)

100-26113-46

LOA
220
#3

3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 2 1960	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
Conlon	

T-1-11-61

SAC, KANSAS CITY (100-1717)

1/25/61

SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-26113)

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - C

OO: Kansas City

Reurlet 11/29/60.

Mr. ROBERT POTTHOFF, Manager, Island View Apartments, 841 West Seaside, apartment number 1, Long Beach, California, advised SA JOSEPH R. CONLON on January 3, 1961, that JOHNSON resides in apartment number 18 at this address and is not employed.

Attempts were made on January 3, 9, 1961, to take JOHNSON's photograph with negative results. His photo was taken on January 10, 1961, by SAs JOSEPH R. CONLON and EMERY D. TURNER. Three photos of JOHNSON and negative are being forwarded as enclosures.

The following informants who are familiar with Communist Party members and activities in the Long Beach, California, area were contacted, and advised JOHNSON has not come to their attention during his stay in this area:

[redacted] on 1/6/61 to SA JOSEPH R.
CONLON.

[redacted] on 1/3/61 to SA JOSEPH R.
CONLON.

[redacted] on 1/5/61 to SA JOSEPH R.
CONLON.

RUC

2 - Kansas City (Enc. 4) (REGISTERED)
1 - Los Angeles

JRC:fam

(3)

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED k
FILED k

RUC
3m3p

100-26113-47

SAC, Los Angeles (100-26113)

4/11/61

SAC, Kansas City (100-1717)

OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON
SECURITY MATTER - CKansas City - OO
Bufile 100-354572

On March 15 and 20, 1961, [redacted] who has furnished reliable information in the past, furnished the following oral information to SA ROBERT E. KENT:

[redacted]

EUGENE V. JOHNSON spent a vacation visiting his father, OTIS W. JOHNSON at Long Beach, Calif., from 3/4/61 to 3/15/61. During this period OTIS W. JOHNSON continued to reside at the same address in Long Beach, Calif., which was 841 West Seaside. OTIS W. JOHNSON is not employed and attended forum lectures at the "University by the Sea" at Long Beach, Calif., on an almost daily basis. He was also a frequent speaker at this location and in his speeches continually favored Socialism or Communism as opposed to capitalism and the United States.

EUGENE V. JOHNSON attended some of these public meetings or forums with his father while visiting at Long Beach.

OTIS W. JOHNSON plans to return to Kansas City 4/15/61 and will again reside at his farm near Spring Hill, Ks. JOHNSON's health is not good due to his advanced age and continues to prevent him from employment or engaging in the operation of his farm. He now has his farm land rented and has disposed of most of his farm machinery.

P

2 - Los Angeles (RM)

4 - Kansas City

2 cc: 100-1717

1 cc: 100-8449 (Eugene Johnson)

1 cc: [redacted]

REK/hmg
(6)

100-26113-48

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 14 1961	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

1. ³6 photos and ¹1 neg. of OTIS WILLIAM JOHNSON. (1-18-61)K

4-*Sent Kansas*
1/25/61

100-26113-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 18 1961	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

29

File No. 100-26113-104

Date Received 1-10-61

From SA J. R. Conlon
& Emory O. Curney

(Address of Contributor)

By J. R. Conlon
(Name of Special Agent)

To Be Returned Yes ()
No (X)

Description:

3 photos &
of neg of
Otis William
Johnson
4 - Sent Kansas City
1/25/61 from

Otis, William Johnson
NW M - 5' 6"
140 - Ben Lou
Ben Eys

LA - 100 - 20113 - 101

